The best of the weirdest ways to die!

Derek Kieper, 21, a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, wrote an editorial in the student newspaper in 2004, in which he denounced mandatory seat belt laws in the USA. "Uncle Sam is not here to regulate every facet of life no matter the consequences," he opined, before proudly stating he was part of the group "who simply do not wish to buckle up no matter what the government does". Only a few months after the article's publication, in January 2005, Kieper was killed when a car he was a passenger in slipped on ice and rolled several times into a ditch. Kieper, keeping true to his word by not wearing a seatbelt, was ejected out the vehicle, and was the only fatality out of the three involved in the crash. Similarly, in 2011, Philip A. Contos, 55, of Parish, New York, was on a ride organized to protest mandatory helmet laws when he lost control of his Harley Davidson and hit his head on the pavement, dying in hospital. Investigators claimed that Contos would've survived had he worn a helmet.

Philip Quinn, a 24-year-old from Seattle, Washington, died in 2004 when he placed a lava lamp on a hotplate. The lamp exploded, creating a storm of glass, shards of which embedded themselves into the walls of Quinn's apartment and also pierced his heart. His mother told media that Philip "has been a kid who tinkers with things ever since he was little".

An armoured car guard was crushed to death in 1986 when $50,000 in quarters fell on him as the driver suddenly braked to avoid an automobile. Hrand Arakelian, 34, was travelling along the San Diego Freeway near Irvine, California, when the driver slammed on the brakes to avoid colliding with a car that had swerved in front of him.

Ivan Lester McGuire, 35, an experienced skydiver from Raleigh, North Carolina, was so intent on filming one of his skydives in 1988 that he forgot to put on a parachute. A Federal Aviation Administration investigator noted "The harness McGuire wore for the video equipment is similar to that of a parachute. It has the same feel."

Charles Darun Taylor, 34, of Lakewood, Colorado, was accidentally electrocuted in 2000 when he touched an electric fence he had rigged to keep out dogs. He had a 12-foot extension cord running from the house to the garden fence which was electrified all the time during the spring. The fence was wired with 120 volts, while most livestock fences are powered with 12 volts. Shouldn't have added the extra zero.

In 2002, winery owner Victor Manola, 47, died when he fell through a manhole into a 2,000l vat of wine while trying to collect a sample in British Columbia, Canada. He was quickly killed by carbon dioxide gas in the tank, as was his friend Frank Supernak, 41, who tried to pull him out.

A 68-year-old woman from the Thai province of Ubon Ratchathani died in 1994 when a parachutist whose chute had failed plummeted more than 2,000m and crashed through the roof of her hut, killing himself and her.

In 2002, a 43-year-old worker at a food manufacturing plant in the town of Phan Tiet, south-eastern Vietnam, fell into a vat of fish sauce and drowned. Four colleagues who tried to rescue him were overcome by the fumes of the fermenting fish and also fell to their deaths in the tank.

A 19-year-old worker was killed in 1994 when he fell headfirst into an industrial dough mixer at a pasta factory in the Bronx, New York. The worker lost his footing while loading the machine. The victim's supervisor claimed, "This has never happened in the 40 years I've been in the business." The same fate was suffered by Elmer Castellano, a 16-year-old from Netcong, New Jersey, whose only job was working at a pizzeria. In 2001, he was cleaning the industrial-size pizza mixing machine at Frank's Pizza when employees heard screams nearby. A police officer told media: "He was definitely pulled into the machine and crushed by the mechanism. It's a big giant bowl with arms that spin in opposite directions and when he got caught, he was pinned inside." He died from traumatic asphyxiation, with the reason how he was pulled into the machine left a mystery.

Efrain Gonzales, 43, was tossing trimmings from a lemon orchard into a wood chipper on Reimen's Ranch in Ventura County, California, in 1999 when he got pulled into the machine's blades and reduced to pulp. The machine was capable of grinding trees up to 16in in diameter. There was a safety lever, but Gonzales apparently couldn't reach it in time. It was thought one of his long sleeves got snagged in the machine.

Hussin Sulaiman, of Malaysia, made his living by collecting coconuts with the help of a trained monkey. However, in 1995, his gathering days came to an unexpected end when his simian colleague misjudged and threw a coconut directly at his neck.

Hadrian Robinson, 28, of Rayne, Essex, had removed several branches of a maple tree with his chainsaw in 2003, but when he came to chop the remainder of the tree it unexpectedly fell towards him, striking him in the head and causing a fatal haemorrhage.

A woman from Leeds with mental health problems died in 2007 after following a bizarre diet which consisted of cutlery, glass, and throwing darts. Former care worker Karen Johnson, 37, also inserted broken glass and razor blades in her body, but was deemed too hard to be treated at a mental health hospital and was thus not sectioned. She ultimately died of bronchopneumonia.

Sam Wilkinson, 21, died when he crashed his new car into a wall in Leeds in 2002 after losing control on a sharp bend. His father told an inquest he believed Sam's large feet were the cause of the tragedy, as his shoes may have become stuck between the brake and the throttle, preventing him from stopping before the fatal collision.

A 22-year-old lifeguard in Worthing fell out of a moving train in 1992 and over a viaduct. Surviving that, he also managed to fall out of a high window at the hospital he was taken to. This left him paralyzed and on a life-support machine, the alarm of which failed to sound when a tube came loose, killing him. The lifeguard's name? Jason Luck.

James Careless, of Wolverhampton, was crushed and killed in 1988 when his vehicle overturned while he was driving along a beach in Lanzarote. In 1993, Fleetus Lee Gobble, 45, choked to death on food in the K&W Cafeteria in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. In 2003, the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* newspaper ran an obituary for Eric D. 'Big Head' Vicks, saying he had died of head injuries without providing any further details.

78-year-old pensioner Phillip Jacques choked to death on his own false teeth after they slipped down his throat while he was eating. Mr Jacques turned blue and collapsed after eating lunch in his nursing home in Bretby, Staffordshire, in 2005, and attempts to revive him proved futile. A post-mortem revealed his teeth had become wedged at least five inches down his oesophagus, completely blocking his airways, and not even the Heimlich manoeuvre would have saved him.

Gerald 'the Yank' Gallen, 20, originally from Illinois, was showing off in a bar in Castlederg, Ireland, in 2000 by lifting a beer keg over his head. He lifted the full keg in the air, but his arms buckled, sending him falling backwards. He was followed swiftly by the keg, which landed on his head.

In a bid to cleanse her system, Siobhan James-Moore, 39, of Stourbridge, West Midlands, drank a two-litre bottle of tobacco-infused 'tonic' which consisted of water and cigarette butts at an eco-village in Calca, Peru, in 2005. She immediately

collapsed, started to tremble and suffer convulsions, and was dead by the time medical assistance arrived, having choked on her own vomit.

Bradley Peat, 34, was using white spirit to clean paint brushes after decorating at his home in Newcastle in 2007 when he decided he fancied a smoke. But within seconds he had caught alight, his clothes had burnt off him and his boots had melted to his feet. Despite the best efforts of hospital staff, he died from his burns, which covered 70% of his body, three days later.

Squeamish Odette Coulson, 14, was among fifteen to twenty fellow pupils at Ripon Grammar School in North Yorkshire who were sitting on the veranda of the cricket pavilion during a lunch break in 2001 looking at a supplement of the lads' magazine *FHM* entitled "The Carnival of the Grotesque". The images – including that of a Buddhist in Thailand sawing off his own tongue to repent for his sins, a woman's internal organs protruding out her anus, the severed arm of a tug-of-war contestant, and the dead body of Herminio Rivera Couceiro – caused Odette to faint, fall down the veranda steps and hit her head on the tarmac. She died from a fractured skull and brain injuries twenty minutes later. The year before, Odette had fainted in a biology lesson when her class was shown a video of people being injected.

A blind cyclist died in 2007 after failing to spot a piece of wood in the road which jammed in his front wheel. William Huelsman, 60, who was legally blind but did possess partial vision, died from brain injuries after tumbling over the handlebars of his bike in South Oxfordshire. The wood, the size of a small ruler, lodged between the front fork and the wheel, locking it solid and throwing him forward onto his face.

Egyptian civil servant Adel Nasim Gerges had waited more than a decade for a promotion. He was so shocked to see his name finally printed on a list of promotions in 1999 that he died from a heart attack.

Experienced parachutist Peter Leighton-Woodruff, 41, was so busy concentrating on recording his descent using a helmet camera that he didn't notice how close to the ground he was, and he plummeted to his death near Maidstone in 2004.

Three Cambodians were killed in 1999 when they set off an anti-tank mine during a drunken game in a restaurant. The three men were drinking in the restaurant in Svay Rieng province when one of the men, who was in the military, placed the 25-year-old mine under the table. They started playing football with it, ignoring the

other diners and villagers who rapidly fled the scene. The mine exploded a few minutes later, killing all three men instantly.

Clifford Greenwood, 67, of Wharfdale, North Yorkshire, got so drunk on whisky when the River Wharf flooded his home in 1995 that he fell asleep on the couch in his lounge, rolled off into just 40cm of water, and drowned.

When Clifton Doan, of Idaho, opened his fridge in 1992, a beer keg ruptured, shot upwards and smashed into his head, killing him instantly.

In 1995, during a game of dare after a drinking spree in Stargard, Poland, 30-year-old Krzysztof A. put his head on the block and told his friends he was ready to have it cut off to prove how tough he was. One of his friends swung an axe and promptly cut Krzysztof's head off.

Emma Blackwell, a 31-year-old from Plymouth, was drinking for hours on a ferry between England and Spain in 2003. Highly intoxicated, as the ferry sailed past the coast of France, she struck the famous outstretched arms pose of Kate Winslet in a scene from the movie *Titanic*. Emma lost her balance, plunged from the ninth deck, and drowned.

Tourist Robert Cairns, 53, of Brentwood, Essex, was so worried about his hire car that his constant checks resulted in him slipping off the hotel balcony and plunging into the hotel garden below in 2001. He had been enjoying the last night of a holiday in Florida with his wife, who said he must have been looking at where the car was parked, ready to bring down their suitcases.

Matthew Dunn, 27, of Sussex, died in 2000 from severe burns caused when he tipped a pan of boiling soup over his body. Matthew was cooking in a hotel in St Nicholas Cliff, Scarborough, when he suffered a fit, collapsing to the floor and knocking the soup over him.

Farmer Carl Theuerkauf, of Menominee, Michigan, was overcome in 1989 by methane gas from the manure pit on his property. Four other members of his family, and a friend, also collapsed and died when trying to retrieve his body.

A Buddhist monk cutting the grass near a peace pagoda died after falling under a mower attached to a runaway tractor in 2007. Rev Seiji Handa, 50, had been using the machinery in North Willen Park, Milton Keynes, when he lost control of the tractor. He chased it down a slope, but as he tried to get back inside, he slipped on the wet grass and fell under the mowing mower, which sliced and diced him as it

dragged him down the slope. Handa had lost three fingers in a previous mowing accident.

Dewi Evans, 61, of Pontyclun, South Wales, had such a passion for swallowing inanimate objects that he eventually needed to undergo surgery on his small bowel in 2003. Surgeons discovered a paper towel, a screw, a pen top, a magnet, and 54p in small change while working inside him. Evans suffered from pica, an eating disorder where a person has a craving for things that are not food, and which is common amongst children and people with learning disabilities. It was noted that Evans had been a resident at a psychiatric hospital since the age of six, and an additional fence had to be erected around the premises to prevent him from escaping. Evans died shortly after the operation from coronary heart disease, with an obstruction of the small bowel a contributing factor.

In 2000, 33-year-old Edward Cope, of Longsight, Manchester, who also suffered from pica syndrome, died in hospital. At an autopsy, doctors found that he had swallowed ten buttons, a drawing pin, pieces of chain and bone, and a large amount of foam rubber. A schizophrenic died after eating metal objects for seven years. Russell Campbell, 45, of Southwark, London, had swallowed more than 21bs of key-rings, cutlery, razor blades and coins when he died in 1995.

In 1990, Zimbabwean shaman Lovemore Mpofu told his tribe they must sing for 48 hours while he remained underwater to perform a cleansing ceremony. However, the ceremony was declared a failure when the singing stopped and Mpofu's lifeless body was found floating in a lake.

27-year-old nurse Lisa Browne died from heart failure in 1998 brought on by the sudden shock of her 6am alarm call. It turned out that Lisa, from Cheshire, suffered from an undiagnosed heart abnormality and the alarm stress caused her heart to stop beating.

Student Helen Dobson, 22, of Southampton, was a big fan of artist Damien Hirst, who famously embalmed half a cow in formaldehyde. She was using the chemical, used as an embalming preservative, for her own art projects – also involving animal organs – in 2002 when she inexplicably decided to drink a glass of the poisonous liquid. She phoned the emergency services but died before paramedics could help her.

Bank worker Douglas Marwick had rather an emotional reunion with his girlfriend after meeting her for the first time in four months in 2002. Douglas, 24, from

Edinburgh, suffered a massive seizure after kissing his lover in a hotel room in Southampton. A post-mortem examination revealed an abnormality in his heart.

Recluse Jacques Niemand, 42, died after becoming obsessed with cleaning himself and his home in the disinfectant Dettol. Jacques' overexposure to the cleaning agent resulted in a fatal lack of oxygen in his system. His sister visited his Didsbury, Lancashire, flat in 2006 and found a suitcase crammed with 100 bottles of Dettol, empty bottles littering the flat, and several buckets containing the fluid.

Keen gardener Jeanne Harris died days after being pricked by a rose thorn at her home in Gloucestershire in 2002. The 61-year-old was pruning her flowers when she caught her finger. Within a matter of days, her elbow had swollen, and she was rushed to hospital after vomiting and growing increasingly weak. Her condition deteriorated and she eventually died six days after being pricked, due to a combination of septicaemia and necrotizing fasciitis.

A young woman died in 2004 when she was strangled by an electric drill cord in a DIY accident. Zoe Turner, 28, was working at the Brixton home she shared with her brother when part of the tool became caught in her hair and headscarf. The drill cable then became tangled around her neck and choked her.

After drinking all afternoon in a bar in Bournemouth in 2005, student Martin Filder, 22, decided to ride down a hill in a shopping trolley with two pals. But it hit a kerb and overturned, and Martin suffered a fatal blow to the head as he fell out.

A student from Oxford University decided it would be a good idea to use a medieval-style catapult to throw himself 100ft through the air. Kostydin 'Dino' Yankov, 19, was on a day trip to an extreme sports club in Somerset in 2002 when he volunteered to have a go on the machine, based on the medieval trebuchets used to hurl rocks and dead animals over castle walls during sieges. Predictably, Dino died on landing from multiple injuries and serious spinal damage.

Retired company director Roland Pudney, 56, virtually decapitated his wife Pauline, 57, after falling from a ladder and plunging a chainsaw through her neck. Pauline had been supporting the base of the ladder as Roland cut branches off apple trees in their garden in London in 2004, when the couple's dog jumped up and caused him to tumble.

High school student David E. Duquette, from Glocester, Rhode Island, crept up on his 16-year-old friend Nicholas Lovell while holding a handgun in 1987 in an

attempt to cure his pal's hiccups. However, instead of inducing a fright-based cure, the gun went off, accidentally killing Lovell.

The Rev William Keyes, 34, of West Bromwich, died after overdosing on paracetamol for a painful abscess on a wisdom tooth in 2002.

In 2005, janitor Eoghan Power, 42, was found dead inside a tank of effluent at a factory in Co. Tipperary, Ireland. Eoghan had suffered a heart attack and fallen into the tank, which was used to hold waste products from butter. It was unknown if Eoghan was dead before he hit the tank.

After climbing into a silo in his farm in Bedfordshire in 2004, David Capon, 71, drowned after some of the grain got inside his wellies, pulling him under the copious amount of grain.

A labourer died after falling down a manhole concealed by rotten wooden boards. Kevin Horner, 19, of Hartlepool, County Durham, was working at a nuclear power plant in Finland when he fell 35ft down the hole in 2007, suffering a fractured skull which later killed him. No explanation was given as to why the rotten boards were used to cover up the hole.

Tree surgeon Scott Donnison almost sliced his own head off while working on a tree 40ft above the ground. He died instantly in Brighton after his chainsaw kicked back from a branch and hit him on the left side of his neck in 2008, but his body was left hanging from a harness until it could be freed using a cherry picker.

Matt Wodhams, 28, was on the top of a car park in Worthing, West Sussex, in 2007, ready to commit suicide, when he decided to give life another go. But as he tried to climb over the railings designed to deter suicide attempts, he slipped and fell to his death. In 1975, a man who had climbed to the top of a 100ft flagpole in an apparent suicide attempt fell to his death after he had changed his mind and was being rescued by firemen. Authorities said they received a call that a man – William Corcoran, 34, of Palmyra, New York – had climbed the steel flagpole and was perched on a square foot platform at the top.

Kathleen Challis, 95, was the victim of incompetent nursing staff who gave her corrosive dishwasher fluid, rather than diluted orange squash, at the home in Hastings, East Sussex, in 2002. The staff only realized something was wrong when her lips started peeling away when they wiped them afterwards.

Illinois resident Michael S. Allen so detested actor and comedian Bill Cosby that when his mother insisted watching his TV show in 1986, Allen took out a revolver. First, he shot the television, and then he shot his mother in the head.

A boy who hanged himself at home in 2003 may have been experimenting as research for his book. Christopher Sutor, 15, a Portsmouth Grammar School pupil, had written one book for his own enjoyment and was starting a second. His family said they believed that he wanted to experience the sensation of hanging for authenticity purposes because the book tackled suicide.

25-year-old Santiago Alvarado was discovered dead on the floor of a bicycle shop in Lompoc, California, in 1997. He had apparently entered the shop through its roof with a flashlight in his mouth to keep his hands free. However, when Santiago landed on the floor, the flashlight rammed down his throat, severing the second vertebrae in his neck, and he died instantly.

After stripping a bridegroom naked and dragging him around the village of St Leonards, East Sussex, during a stag party in 2003, 51-year-old Anthony Read, in an inebriated state, fell over onto his knees, rolled forward, and smacked his head onto the pavement. He ended up in a position where his airways were restricted, and he died of asphyxiation.

Alberto Silveira was passing underneath a bridge in Genoa in 1986 when a tourist accidentally dropped a video camera onto his head, killing him.

A worker at a margarine factory drowned after falling into a vat of coconut oil in 1997. The body of the 40-year-old production line manager at the Kiev Margarine Factory in Ukraine was found in the vat shortly after he was reported missing. It is unknown whether the unnamed victim fell into the vat or was pushed.

Widow and DIY enthusiast Annie Mitchell, 81, died in 2002 following a bizarre set of events as she tried to fix a leaking pipe in her airing cupboard. Annie attempted to stop the leak by flattering the pipe with her shoe but cracked it and sent ten gallons of water spraying over her from the attic tank. The water also caused the carpet to swell and the cupboard door to expand, trapping her inside the 3ft square cupboard. She was found dead of hypothermia two days later in her claustrophobic cupboard.

Cricketer Derek Newman, 45, died in 2007 in Cornwall whilst trying to make a catch during a match between Porthleven and St Just. He was struck on the chest by the ball while fielding close to the boundary, triggering a heart attack.

A student was killed when two rollercoaster cars collided at a theme park in North Yorkshire. Gemma Savage, 20, of Wath, suffered head and neck injuries in the collision on the ride in 2001. Computer safety devices built into the rollercoaster to ensure two cars were never on the same section of track had been disabled, and Gemma's car was hit at a speed of around 45mph, causing severe whiplash injuries.

What was supposed to be a security device to prevent his car from being robbed ended up being the death of 38-year-old Darren Anderson. Darren was unable to open the doors of his Jeep Cherokee, which had been fitted with an anti-hijack device, after the vehicle slipped into the River Stour near his home in Christchurch, Dorset, in 2004.

Steam engine enthusiast Derek Cox was crushed in 2006 after slipping under the wheels of a five-tonne machine. The 71-year-old, who was attending a steam fair in Walgrave, Northamptonshire, in 2006, was sitting on top of the engine when the seat broke, plunging him into the road before he disappeared under the massive iron wheels. The driver was unable to stop the engine in time and Derek was flattened.

A mechanic was killed when a 15-tonne lorry held up on jacks fell on top of him. Steven Parsons, 18, was working under the vehicle at Truck Craft in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, in 2000, when it fell off the jacks and crushed him dead.

Andreas Plack, 23, from Merano, Italy, bled to death in 2001 after persuading his cousin, Christian Kleon, to cut open his leg with a chainsaw to cash in on a $600,000 insurance policy.

In 1998, a chicken thief from Douala, Cameroon, identified only as Henri, was caught by an enraged mob and was forced to devour the entirety of the purloined chicken. He ended up chocking to death amidst the beak, feathers and bones.

Keen chess player Buth Ratha was charged with murder in Cambodia in 1999 after becoming enraged at his opponent's blatant cheating. Ratha clubbed the unidentified victim to death with a wooden pestle after he had moved a knight to a new position, then tried to put it back again.

French gambler Adrian Marque, from Nice, became incredibly jealous when his fellow poker player Louis Guilhot scooped a hand with three kings in 1998. Marque celebrated Guilhot's victory by stuffing poker chips down his throat, cleaning him out.

Vandal Matthew David Hubal met his end in 1994 as he slid down a ski run at a resort in California. He was riding on a makeshift sled formed out of yellow foam safety padding he had ripped off a ski lift tower. He died when he crashed into the exact same ski lift tower he had lifted the foam from.

While robbing a 7-Eleven store in St Louis, Missouri, with his brother in 1994, Robert Puelo, 32, grabbed a hotdog and ran out of the store without paying. He managed to get a couple of metres away from the crime scene before collapsing to the ground in a choking fit. When police found him unconscious, his fingertips had turned blue and there was a six-inch piece of uneaten frankfurter lodged in his throat. Puelo was pronounced dead at hospital, where a further three chunks of unchewed sausage was found in his oesophagus.

Lorry driver Glyn Clarke trapped his head in hydraulic lifting equipment because he pushed the wrong buttons on the tailgate lifting machine. For some reason Glyn, 28, from the West Midlands, pressed the up button instead of the down one, and was crushed to death at the Cambridgeshire petrol station in 2006.

While dancing with her family in front of the TV in 2007, Grace Ward, 41, of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, banged her leg on the same spot she had hit it earlier in the day. Her health deteriorated rapidly and she died from a blood clot a couple of days later.

A spectator at the European Drag Championships died when a car's parachute opened and sent debris flying into the stand. Roger George, 64, from Norfolk, was watching the finals of the event at the Santa Pod racetrack in Porington, Bedfordshire, in 2006. A car opened its rear parachute and sent a fatal chunk of shrapnel shooting into his chest in a million-to-one freak accident.

Friends of Andrew Levin, 18, of Hertfordshire, left him in their hire car to sleep off the booze after a night's drinking at a Marbella nightclub in 1997. But several hours later, they found Andrew dead in a pool of sweat. The car had reached temperatures of up to 50C, literally cooking him alive.

A gold chain may have made 20-year-old stable lad Paul Maroney stand out, but it also contributed to his death in 1996 when a flash of lightning struck the chain, frying Paul, of Barnard Castle, County Durham.

Student Toby Mann, 19, fell 150ft down a lift shaft because he failed to check the lift was actually there. Toby, from Salisbury, Wiltshire, planned to take the service

lift from the 14th floor of an apartment block in Buenos Aires, Argentina, but a fault caused the safety door to open on its own. He entered without realizing that the lift was still on the ground floor.

James and Molly McDonald, both 74, died from carbon monoxide poisoning in 2005 when drilling operations nearby disturbed an old mineshaft under their house in Dudley, the West Midlands.

A 20-year-old man obsessed with explosives blew himself up in 2003 after putting a homemade pipe bomb in his mouth and accidentally lighting the fuse. Kevin Barnes stuffed a four-inch length of copper piping with firework gunpowder before sucking on it. Then he chanted "Grenade! Grenade!" before laughing and saying "Tick, tick, boom" before flicking the lighter, causing his flat in Daventry, Northamptonshire, to be set alight in the resultant explosion.

Despite having an obsessive fear with rubber, Andrew Cunningham, 22, died after secretly swallowing a rubber glove. Andrew, who had autism, had such an intense phobia of the material that he had thrown away up to 200 rubber bath plugs at the residential home where he lived in Llandeilo, Wales. But he was also obsessive about a watch that he owned and would regularly pull out the strap pins and throw them away so he could buy some new ones. The rubber glove was found to contain one of the watch pins, which had perforated his small intestine and fatally poisoned him in 2002, but why Andrew swallowed it was something he carried to the grave.

Rosaline Gilbert, a 34-year-old devout Christian, died in 2006 after undertaking a 40-day religious fast during which she only drank water. Rosaline, of Hackney, London, had apparently tried to emulate Christ's 40 days and 40 nights of starvation in the wilderness, but died twenty-three days into her attempt. Rosaline had previously refused offers of food from her church, saying that God would provide for her.

Owen Smith, 17, of Cardiff, died in a freak accident whilst exercising in the gym. He was doing chin-ups in 2002 when he hit his head on the metal bar, fracturing his skull. But the injury was not spotted in two visits to the doctor and another to hospital, and he died nineteen days later when an infection spread to his brain.

Student Adam Deeley, 34, choked to death while taking part in a fairy cake eating contest in 2008. Adam, from Birmingham, died following an impromptu competition to see who could scoff the most cakes left over after a buffet in a bar in Swansea.

Mohamed Abderrahman decided to avoid paying for a rail ticket in 1995 by riding on a train's roof. However, a low-hanging bridge meant that, while his body pulled into Cairo's main train station, his head did not.

Father-of-four David Griffiths ended up crushed in a recycling plant in Middlesbrough in 2002. He had climbed into the skip to sleep off a night's boozing in the town. He was found dead among piles of rubbish, with extensive crush injuries, having been emptied into a refuse wagon.

Pensioner Brigid O'Callaghan was strangled by the seatbelt of her wheelchair after sliding down in her sleep in 2005. The 74-year-old had been left in the chair by staff at a Birmingham nursing home when she refused to go to bed, only to be found with the seatbelt round her neck the following morning.

A mother died when she fell down three concrete steps outside a restaurant after a family Boxing Day meal in 2005. Mary Beecroft, 58, of Clifton, Nottingham, hit her head and died soon afterwards.

Retiree James Riley, 54, was killed after running into a lamppost and falling in front of a bus he was trying to catch. Riley was running to get on the bus in Oldham, Greater Manchester, in 2007 when he bumped into the post. He then fell in front of the bus and was hit, causing fatal injuries.

A patient taken to the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, for emergency surgery in 2004 died after he was given blood for a patient of the same name. The error was spotted during the operation but Graham Davies, 77, died on the table.

Royal Mint worker John Wynne, 50, was crushed to death by a six-ton furnace carrying metal to be made into coins. John died in 2001 after the furnace fell on top of him from a damaged crank hook at the Mint in Llantrisant, South Wales.

The unfortunate chef Zacharia Conteh, 34, was scalded to death in 2002 when half a tonne of spinach soup exploded over him as he opened a pressure cooker in a factory in Willesden, London.

Amateur astronomer Paul Linnington was driven over and killed whilst lying in the road stargazing in Kingham, Oxfordshire, in 2003. The driver continued home, unaware that he had run over 42-year-old Paul, who often lay in the road to look at the stars after a night down the pub. Charges against the driver were dropped.

Cornwall resident Robert Appleton, 20, a devotee of the American extreme stunt programme *Jackass*, accidentally killed himself in 2003 after taping wires to his chest and connecting them to a 12-volt car battery adapted to deliver a 240-volt current in 2003.

A woman who relied on a portable ventilator to breathe died after workmen accidentally cut off power to her home. Kathleen Russell, 77, who suffered from emphysema, had been totally dependent on the machine for the previous two years. Power to hundreds of homes in Radstock, Somerset, was cut off in 2005 when workmen drove a metal spike through an electricity cable. This switched off Kathleen's machine, and despite her son's best attempts, she died within thirty minutes. In 2000, 24-year-old Julian Hendricks died when a power cut caused by a falling tree stopped his ventilator from working while alone in his house in Christchurch, Dorset. Hendricks, who suffered from the muscle-wasting Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, was fiercely independent, refused to allow carers to regularly visit him.

A rare condition that reduced skin sensitivity led to a teacher burning to death after stepping into a bath of near-boiling water. Anne Garnett, 45, was found by her husband with 70% burns following the tragedy at their home in Preston, Lancashire in 2007. Water hitting 90C from a full-on boiler caused horrific injuries, but she didn't notice until it was too late.

A young Mexican couple were found dead in the back of a hearse in 1999. Jose Agustin Noh worked for a funeral home in Campeche and decided to have sex with his girlfriend, Ana Maria Camara Suarez, in his hearse, meanwhile leaving the engine running to provide air conditioning. But they did from carbon monoxide poisoning while sleeping off their tryst. In 2010, a couple from southern Moscow died from carbon monoxide poisoning whilst having sex in a car parked in a tiny garage. According to a police source via Russia's Interfax news agency, the lovers most likely turned the engine on to keep warm, but during a moment of "intimate closeness", the pair inhaled the gas and died.

A salesman suffocated after climbing into his car boot to sleep off Christmas drinks. Charles Courtier-Dutton, 34, of Surrey, had been to a pub bash with workmates in 2006, and decided to kip in the boot afterwards rather than catch a taxi home. But he was trapped in the dark when the keys slipped out of reach in the boot, and he tried, in vain, to frantically claw his way out. Police found his body when they prised the boot open fourteen hours later.

Butcher David Jones, 46, suffered a massive brain haemorrhage after slipping on lard. David, who worked in Kilburn, West London, picked up a film of animal fat on the soles of his shoes and fell over in a nearby supermarket in 2007. He died in hospital a month later.

Francesca Sanna, 19, is thought to have died from a severe allergic reaction to brushing her teeth. The accounts clerk, from Lancashire, was plagued by a string of allergies and was very careful about what she ate. She always used the same toothpaste, but the design of the squeezy tube changed not long before her death from anaphylactic shock in 2007. Although no direct link to the toothpaste could be proved, a pathologist could not rule out a connection.

John Jones, 62, crammed his house in Aberystwyth, Wales, with tons and tons of rubbish over the course of twenty years. He was forced to build a network of tunnels to get around. Unfortunately, the twenty-stone weirdo died when part of his massive hoard fell on top of him in 2007. Police had to clear out four tons of junk through his bedroom window before they could reach his badly decomposed remains.

The dead body of 56-year-old Derek Carmichael, of Bristol, was found half-naked in a field of horses, without trousers or underpants, in 2003. Derek was discovered face-down wearing only shirts and socks, his trousers nearby with his pants in the pocket. He had died of a heart attack, but no explanation could be found as to why he was in the field.

A window cleaner drowned in his own bucket of water after suddenly collapsing at work. Mark Fairhurst, 35, of Wigan, was found with his head in the pail he used for his rounds in 2006. A latent heart condition had caused the collapse, but the cause of death was drowning because his head became stuck in the bucket, and he was unable to free himself.

Dad Peter Mourier, 50, of Worcestershire, was killed when he let his seven-year-old son drive at 70mph on the M5 motorway in 2005. Mourier, who had been drinking, offered the wheel to the youngster despite the pleas of his two older sons. The seven-year-old leaned over to help steer from lane to lane. But the Rover 216 hit an object in the middle lane, veered off the road and hit a tree. All three sons survived, but Peter was killed when the crumpled bonnet crushed his skull.

Sheila Kay Ross, 47, of Des Moines, Iowa, died in the back of a truck delivering vegetables to a grocery store depot in 2007 whilst she was checking contents against some paperwork, when some lettuces fell off the shelf and knocked her

unconscious. Her unconscious body was covered by lettuce, thus preventing her to breathe, and she died of compressional asphyxiation. She was only found three days after she was reported missing when the truck was emptied of its cargo of lettuce. The lettuce was promptly destroyed to prevent any future lettuce murders.

Robert Starke, 29, tried to squeeze through a six-inch gap in a window, only to become wedged and unable to breathe properly. Robert was visiting a friend's flat in Farnborough, Hampshire, in 2007. Although he buzzed several flats, he was unable to get in. Instead, he took out a pane in a narrow louvered window and tried to get in that way. He died from a rare condition called pneumothoraces, which meant he could take air into his lungs, but couldn't exhale. He also suffered puncture wounds from glass.

A furniture store supervisor from Llanelli, South Wales, died in 2005 when she injured her ankle. Leanne Harris, 37, had her injured ankle put in plaster, but this led to a fatal blood clot which travelled to her lungs and blocked an artery.

A visiting district nurse from Rotherham, South Yorkshire, found 87-year-old Ken Norsworthy dead on his knees with his head submerged in a bucket of water, which was itself submerged in a bath. A coroner was unable to determine whether Ken's 2007 death was suicide or a bizarre accident.

David Mushikele, of Namibia, was hit by a bolt of lightning whilst out driving in a street in Windhoek in 1996. However, as the dazed man picked himself up, he was struck and killed instantly by a hit and run driver.

Warehouse worker Paul Langford (or Langfield; sources vary) was crushed to death by a ton of frozen chicken at the factory where he worked in Marston, Lincolnshire in 2002. Paul, 17, was unable to dive out of the way as a huge pallet of the chilled meat toppled off a forklift truck. He was pinned behind shrink-wrapped pieces of chicken equivalent to hundreds of birds.

Drunk builder Ian Critchell, 27, of Dorchester, Dorset, was driving back to work with colleagues after a lunchtime pint in 2003 when he suddenly felt the need to urinate. Pals watched in horror as he opened the door of the van, despite the fact it was moving at 25mph, only to fall out of the van and smash into the road surface.

In some sort of bizarre ricocheting incident, a driver was killed in 2003 when a deer bounced off the bonnet of an oncoming car and was catapulted through the windscreen. The animal was hit by one vehicle before being bounced onto the glass of Leslie Kingham's hatchback with such force it ended up in the boot. Civil

servant Leslie, 50, died from head injuries following the accident in Somerset, while the other driver was unharmed.

Student Alexander Edwards, 18, was run over and killed after standing in the middle of the road mooning at passing cars. Alexander and three pals were exposing their backsides while walking to a party in Somerset in 2004 when a motorist was blinded by headlights and ploughed into the lads.

The naked bodies of Rosalyn Harris, 22, and boyfriend Karl Bissett, 31, were found dead in the shower by her adoptive dad when he became worried she had been in there for too long. Rosalyn had sneaked Karl into the bathroom of her parents' bungalow in Cresselly, Pembrokeshire, for a steamy morning romp in 2001, but the pair were overcome by deadly carbon monoxide fumes from a faulty gas water heater.

Aloys Wouters, of Belgium, died in 1986 from peritonitis. This was brought on when his wife sodomized him with a 14-inch vibrator designed, according to the manufacturers, to "bring you to the edge of heaven". Just not back from it.

Garage worker Simon Elliot, 38, from Hook, Hampshire, took a swig from a can of drink in 2004, only to swallow a wasp. The insect stung his mouth and trigged anaphylactic shock, swelling his throat and neck, and causing him to hyperventilate. Despite colleagues' efforts, he died later in hospital.

In 1985, the New Orleans Recreation Department decided to throw a pool party to celebrate the first summer in memory without a single drowning at a city pool. However, at the end of the party, the dead body of 31-year-old Jerome Moody was found at the bottom end of a pool. More than half of the 200 attendees were certified lifeguards, and indeed four lifeguards were on duty at the party, yet they still managed to miss Moody, who wasn't a lifeguard and whose disappearance went unnoticed as the party raged.

The estranged wife of David Baron, 58, found her former partner wearing women's clothing and hooked up to a dental anaesthetic machine pumping out nitrous oxide. David was discovered wearing tights, a grey pleated skirt, black bra, blue jumper and a clear plastic apron, in the dressing room of his house in Kings Stanley, Gloucestershire, in 2004. He was surrounded by pictures of scantily clad women with anaesthetic equipment. The machine should have pumped out an oxygen-nitrous oxide mix, but was faulty, leading to David's death.

In 1989, Maria de Cocker, a 39-year-old woman from Arlon, Belgium, called the local police to deal with a rabid German shepherd that had broken into her garden. In turn, the police dispatched field warden Marc Fagny. He attempted to put the dog out of its misery with a handgun, but ended up shooting Maria dead instead.

David and Sheila Johnson, 66 and 65 respectively, were killed in a head-on crash in 2006 when the driver of a minibus veered into their car after being stung in the crotch by a bee. The 26-year-old driver, Andrew Workman, lost control after being stung on his privates, ploughing into the Johnsons' approaching Volvo in Shepley, West Yorkshire.

Willie Murphy was working in an American peanut processing plant in Georgia in 1993 when he was crushed to death by an avalanche of unshelled nuts.

Pansy Winifred Jagger, 81, killed herself with paracetamol in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, in 1991 after being told her old car was beyond repair.

67-year-old Betty Stobbs died in Weardale, County Durham, in 1999 when she delivered a bale of hay to her flock of sheep whilst on a quad bike. Sensing weakness, forty of the flock rushed Betty, knocking her over a cliff into a 100ft deep quarry. Miraculously, Betty survived the fall, so the sheep finished off the job by pushing her quad bike down on top of her.

A pigeon killed Paul Askew, 49, in what the coroner called "a million-to-one chance". It flew into his helmet, causing him to lose control of his motorcycle. The bird exploded in a cloud of feathers, sending Paul veering off the road he was riding along in the Yorkshire Dales in 1996. He collided with some trees and died in hospital from his injuries.

A 59-year-old woman, Theby Pamela Caukwell, was killed whilst attempting to prepare a cup of tea whilst driving in the Buller District of New Zealand in 2001. Caukwell was driving to Christchurch when she crashed into a creek, causing her to drown. A mug was found wedged between the dashboard and the steering wheel, and a thermos was found downstream. Caukwell had been wearing a seatbelt but had the diagonal strap under her right arm, apparently to give her greater movement to prepare the tea.

Martin Hine, 62, died after falling down a staircase at his partner's house after tripping over her dog in Wellington, Somerset, in 2007.

Business consultant Matthew Wareing, 36, died in 2007 after being bitten by his kids' pet rat, Roger. The father of three was fit and healthy until Roger nipped his right hand, infecting his blood with unknown bacteria. Matthew, of Uckfield, West Sussex, declined to see a doctor owing to an important business meeting, and he died from blood poisoning just over a fortnight after he was bitten.

A woman died after scratched while attempting to rescue a rat. 56-year-old Carol Colburn rushed to help a rat trapped in her garden bird feeder in 2008, but she scratched her hands and contracted a rare and deadly infection from the animal, dying less than a week later. She had ignored pleas from her husband to use gloves, and only after she was scratched did she leave rescue responsibilities to her son. However, Colburn, of Brighton, had already contracted Weil's disease, caused by bacteria found in rat's urine. Neither Colburn nor her family realized she was infected until it was too late, and she died of a heart attack whilst in hospital for flu symptoms.

A funeral procession spooked a camel carrying garden designer Valerie Hewitt, 61, and it threw her onto the pavement. Valerie, from Terrington, near York, was with her family near the pyramids in Egypt enjoying a sunset camel ride in 2003 when her mount became frightened by the funeral traffic and bucked, throwing her in the air. She died eleven days later from a brain haemorrhage.

A tiny spider led to the death of mother Brenda Sharpe, 67, on the day before her son's 2006 wedding. Brenda, from near Saxmundham, Suffolk, lost control of her Peugeot 106 when she saw the arachnid coming down a web between her sun visors and smashed head-on into a bus. She died from multiple injuries.

Metal wires in the bras of two Thai friends who were struck by a massive bolt of lightning while taking shelter beneath a tree in 1999 may have acted to conduct the charge to their hearts. Anuban Bell, 24, and Sunee Whitworth, 39, had burn marks on their chests, near the left cups of their underwired bras and in the region of their hearts. The two women, who had decided to spend a few hours shopping in central London, lay dead for up to sixteen hours in Hyde Park before the alarm was raised.

Pensioner Ada Stokes, 85, was happily sitting in her wheelchair as she embarked on an ambulance journey for a hospital check-up, only to be catapulted head-first onto the floor, in 1999. The driver had failed to secure her chair using special clamps, and as he pulled over to avoid an oncoming car, Ada, of East Finchley, London, was tipped over and smacked onto the ground. She died the following day.

Crescenzo Maffei shot himself in the chin with a crossbow bolt, but was sent home by the doctor and didn't die until almost a month later. In 2007, 47-year-old Crescenzo, of Kidderminster, Worcestershire, was found by his wife lying on their bedroom floor with a wound to his chin next to a crossbow-bolt. He appeared to have removed the bolt himself but was taken to hospital for treatment. However, no major injuries were found and he was sent home, only to return a few days later for another fruitless examination. His GP was dissatisfied and demanded he went to hospital for a third time, where doctors discovered the crossbow bolt injury had actually entered his brain to a very small extent; enough, however, to allow air into his brain, causing him to die from multiple organ failure.

Stroke patient Thomas Towler, 79, died in Sheffield after a care home feeding machine stuffed him with five times the right amount of food. A faulty regulator on a machine that fed him directly through his stomach meant he was pumped with food at the home in 2003. He was unable to reach the alarm buzzer before it was too late, and he was found lying in his own vomit ninety minutes later.

Karen Murray, 19, was also the victim of extreme medical stupidity after doctors left five nine-inch square medical swabs in her bowel after an operation in 1990. Karen, of Southport, Merseyside, collapsed and died after complaining of stomach pains while holidaying with her boyfriend eight years later, and it was found that the swabs had been strangulating her bowel during that period.

Fetish fan Robert Garnett, 35, died from excessive overheating after taking a huge amount of cocaine while wearing a rubber body suit. The store manager, from Kennington, South London, was found lying dead in the rubber outfit after he failed to turn up for work in 2005. A post-mortem examination revealed that his brain had swollen, and this was attributed to a combination of the cocaine and the rubber leading to him overheating.

Miami-based construction worker Ramon Jose Rodriguez, 23, was killed in 1988 when high winds blew a portable toilet off of the fourth floor of a building and crushed Ramon.

Werner Shenke bit off another man's ear during a violent and brutal bar room brawl in the city of Bremen, Germany, in 1998. However, the opponent had the last laugh as Shenke choked to death when part of the lobe stuck in his throat.

Ex-sailor James Cross, 83, swallowed a denture cleaning tablet after mistaking it for an extra strong mint. He had found a pack of the caustic tablets in a room at the

care home where he lived in Walker, near Newcastle, in 2003, and was rushed to hospital when he started foaming at the mouth after drinking some water. He died of lung damage following the mix-up.

A sleepwalker who often dreamed about films he had watched may have hanged himself while re-enacting a death scene from Steven Spielberg's WWII Holocaust movie *Schindler's List*. Michael Cox, 37, from Tresham, near Bristol, who had been a sleepwalker since childhood, told a friend he was going to watch the film in 2001, which had a hanging scene at its climax. He was found hanging from banisters from his trouser belt, but there appeared to be no other explanation why he killed himself.

Daniel Hindle, 17, of Richmond, Sheffield, died in 2002 from blood poisoning two months after getting his lip pierced. Shortly after the piercing, he was admitted to hospital with a fever and vomiting, and died two months later. It is believed a heart condition may have caused the piercing to become fatal.

Roger Russell, 61, died in 2001 when he contracted Legionnaires' disease after a salesman's demonstration in Bagshot, Surrey. Roger, from Berkshire, and his wife had only intended to collect a brochure from the garden centre, but the salesman offered to show them a bath in operation. As the taps were switched on, jets of air sprayed Roger with a fine mist. Two days later he began suffering flu-like symptoms, before a rapid deterioration set in, and he died from multiple organ failure seventeen days after the demonstration. Tests found that the deadly bacteria were still present in the spa bath more than three weeks later.

A former chemical engineer who booby-trapped his house in Charleroi, Belgium, with the intention of killing his estranged family, died himself in 2002 when he inadvertently triggered one of his own devices. Louis Dethy, 79, divorced his wife in the 1980s when she caught him committing an adulterous affair, and she took their fourteen children with them. Dethy became a recluse, never forgiving his children or grandchildren, and when his mother bequeathed the household to one of Dethy's daughters, he set about installing several shotgun traps to kill any relatives who attempted to take any of his possessions when he died. Dethy set about nineteen traps, but at the age of 79, it appeared he forgot the exact locations and accidentally triggered one of the shotguns when he moved a soup tureen.

Couple Achsen and Sigrid Wilberg, of Hamburg, Germany, used their DIY skills to build themselves a sauna in 1994. However, as temperatures soared to 180C in their self-built hothouse, they found themselves trapped when the handle jammed. Achsen, 60, was overcome by the heat when he tried to wrench off the pine

roofing and died, but just before she passed out, Sigrid ripped wiring off the wall, causing a short-circuit which cut off the heating and saved her life.

Luc Darcourt, of Belgium, was attempting a DIY conversion of his attic into a home office in 1989 when he stepped through the ceiling. Luc sustained only a broken ankle and wrist, but his wife, whom he landed on, died from a broken neck.

In 1985, Hans Pender, 50, was trying to redecorate his Salzburg, Austria, home when he became entangled in a 25-metre roll of flock wallpaper. When his family returned home from a shopping expedition, they found that Hans had suffocated, as when he tried to pull himself free, he only entangled himself even further.

Lesley Hovvells, known as Red Sonia because of her flaming red hair, had an ambition to have a hundred body piercings, but died shortly after reaching her target when her body became overwhelmed by infection. Lesley, 39, from Llanelli, South Wales, actually had 118 piercings by the time she succumbed to septicaemia in 2000 due to an inability to keep all the piercings sufficiently clean.

Teacher Christy Onwordi, 38, often wore a plastic bag over her newly dyed hair to stop products staining her pillow, but it all went pear-shaped in 2002 when she inadvertently suffocated herself in her sleep at her home in Chorlton, Greater Manchester, when the bag slipped over her head.

While cleaning a tenpin bowling machine in Barking, East London, in 2006, 34-year-old Ferdinand Dela Cruz was trapped and crushed to death by the mechanism.

A man killed himself for £27 after he mistakenly believed he and a friend had lost out on a £2.7m National Lottery jackpot because he had forgotten to renew their ticket. Tim O'Brien, 51, of Merseyside, shot himself in the head in despair in 1995, but it emerged that the tool-room servicer had made an error and actually only possessed four of the six winning numbers.

Gary Collins died instantly when his four-wheel motorcycle collided with a school bus on Livingstone Gully Road at Big Springs, near Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, in 2003 while he was moving cattle. Only the night before, he had appeared on local television warning of the dangers of that stretch of road, saying it was only a matter of time before there would be a fatal accident.

Emmanuel Gumbi, 31, wandered into a butchery in South Africa's Kwazulu-Natal province in 2003 and headed for the meat counter. Here he switched on the butcher's band saw and cut about halfway through his neck in front of horrified customers before he fell to the floor. He bled out before he could be rushed to hospital. He had told security guards that someone was following him and waiting for him outside the shop, and he chose to kill himself rather than face the person who followed him there.

A woman on her way to her son's wedding in 2003 died from a heart attack after a deer crashed through the windscreen of the car in which she was the front-seat passenger. The stag ran into the road and landed on 54-year-old Doreen Morgan in remote woodlands in Walterboro, South Carolina. Her sister, Mary Prosser, 58, of Bodenham, near Hereford, was knocked unconscious by the decapitated animal. Morgan, who died later in hospital, immigrated to the USA in 1990.

Student Emma Morecombe bought a new pair of shoes for her graduation from Newcastle University in 2007, only to break her ankle in a tumble down the stairs while trying them on. Emma, 23, from Hayes End, Middlesex, underwent surgery, but three weeks later she collapsed and died from a blood clot to the lungs – the odds of which are 1 in 10,000.

Voodoo doctor Jacquez Severe made 'magic bullets', which he guaranteed would always kill their target. In 1992, Severe, from Haiti, was killed with one of the bullets he created – shot by a dissatisfied customer whose previous shooting victim had survived.

Joshua Thomas Burchette, 23, of Ocean City, Maryland, got hiccups after a couple of beers in 2000, and asked a friend to punch him in the chest to try to get rid of them. As Burchette had a history of heart problems, he collapsed onto the pavement and died after his friend obliged.

Fashion designer Nicola Faulkner was killed by a violent allergic reaction to the glue she used on her hair extensions in 2000. Nicola, 28, of Sydenham, south-east London, was allergic to nuts, but had previously used the bonding glue with no ill effects. But within an hour of fitting the extensions, her face swelled up and a skin rash spread across her body, before she died from anaphylactic shock. Meanwhile, Janice Balfour, 29, died from an asthma attack after a trip to the hairdresser. Janice, of Copnor, near Portsmouth, had a seizure at home and, despite being rushed to hospital, could not be revived. Her mum, Margaret, said Janice was allergic to solutions used in hairdressing salons. *Daily Mirror* headline, 7th October 1994: "Hairdo kills mum".

Laura Williams, 88, of Glamorgan, Wales, swallowed buttons she mistook for tablets and choked to death in a hospital in Bridgend in 2007.

On Christmas Day 2008, Robert Hughes, of Coedpoeth, Wrexham, decided it was time to replace the old CRT television in the spare room of his house with a new flat-screen. While transferring the old telly down the stairs, he stumbled and he lost his grip, causing the TV to crush the skull of his four-year-old daughter, Emily May.

Boozed-up builder John Hallihan, 44, locked himself out of his flat in Bristol, in 2007. When he tried to break back in, he accidentally hung himself. He stood on an old fridge freezer so he could reach a broken window and hook open the ledge inside with a cable. But he slipped and wedged his neck in the frame, causing a massive heart attack.

A bed turned into a coffin for two sisters, trapping them for four days when it fell on top of them. Alice Wardle, 68, and Mildred Bowman, 62, of Gateshead, were resting on a pull-down bed at the Levante Club holiday apartments in Benidorm, Spain, in 2005, when the heavy wooden frame it folded into fell off the wall. The thick wood prevented them from being heard and they eventually suffocated after several days buried alive in the makeshift tomb.

Drunken cyclist Charles Lymer, 56, of Derby, died after swallowing his dentures. He was seen holding onto traffic lights, trying to stand up, after a Christmas drink in 2005, but had stopped breathing when he was later found in a lay-by with his bike. It is thought he may have panicked after swallowing the dental plate.

A little scratch on the hand led to window cleaner James Murray, 36, dying from one of the worst cases of toxic shock syndrome doctors had ever seen. Nobody knows how James, of Marske, Cleveland, suffered the scratch in 2005, but it became infected, and rapidly led to blood poisoning and organ failure.

Booze-fuelled Julian Brooks, 22, unwisely decided to hoist himself up a 22ft wooden flagpole as he walked to a party with friends in Pontypridd, South Wales, in 2005. Naturally, the flagpole started bending and Julian fell off. He later died from internal and spinal injuries.

After transplant surgery which should have given him at least a decade more of life, unlucky Peter Dickinson contracted cancer from his new liver and died eleven months later. Peter, 41, from Morecambe, Lancashire, was jubilant to receive the

organ in 2002, but subsequently developed a rare, gastro-intestinal tumour that could not be treated. Another patient who received organs from the same 26-year-old donor also developed a tumour. The equally unfortunate Matthew Millington, 31, from Stoke-on-Trent, died in 2008 after receiving a pair of cancerous lungs from someone who regularly smoked 30 to 50 roll-up cigarettes a day. Papworth Hospital in Cambridge, which carried out the transplant, missed the tumour, which was only discovered six months after the operation, and drugs to ensure Matthew's body accepted the new organs sped up the tumour's spread.

A pit bull terrier savaged his epileptic owner after reacting to the adrenaline he pumped out while having a fit. Window cleaner George Dinham, 47, had collapsed on the floor of his home in Surrey in 2003 when his Staffordshire lunged at his throat. The dog crushed his windpipe and tore his carotid artery, causing torrential haemorrhaging. It also crushed his Adam's apple. In 2000, the body of 25-year-old Kirsty Ross was discovered in her home in Helston, Cornwall, with massive neck injuries, later discovered to have been caused by the family Doberman. It appeared that, while Ross had an epileptic fit, the dog had tried to drag her to safety by the scruff of her neck to protect her.

Fumes from a toilet killed grandfather Alan Wilson, 63, as he looked around a new house in Emerson Valley, Buckinghamshire, in 2002. He was overcome by a deadly vapour formed from cleaning fluid containing 91% sulphuric acid mixed with water in the toilet pan. Seconds after opening the toilet door, he clutched his chest and collapsed, and was dead by the time he reached hospital.

Toxic fumes from a cleaning solution containing sulphuric acid left two people unconscious and one dead when a pensioner tried to unblock his sink in 2000. Albert Wright, 66, of Stoke Newington, north London, used the industrial pipe cleaner in a last ditch attempt to clear the blockage before going on holiday. However, after inhaling fumes, Wright was seen by his wife clutching his throat and collapsing. He died in hospital the next day. A couple from next door who tried to help also collapsed.

In 1993, a 23-year-old worker at a sweet factory in Marseille, France, was crushed to death when a bin containing more than 1000kg of marshmallows accidentally emptied its contents over him.

Victor Villenti was a strict vegetarian from Cape Town, South Africa, who had managed to avoid eating meat for the majority of his fifty years on the planet, even enforcing the dietary regime on his family. While jogging in 1991, a frozen leg of

lamb fell from a third-storey window ledge, where it had been defrosting, and hit Villenti on the head, killing him instantly.

Short-sighted 88-year-old Dennis Verity of Bridgend, Wales, died of a heart malfunction and poisoning in 1999 after frying up and eating some daffodil bulbs, which contain the poisonous substance narcissine. He thought he had been cooking onions.

New boom box speakers in John Twaddell's car were too loud for him to hear a train coming on a railway crossing. The sound system had only been fitted an hour before John, 18, of Christchurch, New Zealand, drove to pick up a friend from the airport in 2004. The crossing was controlled by a stop sign and had no alarms, but the stereo was found to have been set at a high volume following the crash.

A woman was killed after being hit in the head by a flying fire extinguisher in 2005. The valve of the extinguisher had been damaged when it fell over in Uhlenberg Haulage in Eltham, New Zealand. The sudden discharge of high pressure gas sent it spinning round on the ground before taking off into the air. It hit 32-year-old Tracy Uhlenberg in the head, before smashing through a corrugated plastic window and coming to rest.

A New Zealand diplomat accidentally stabbed herself through the heart with a fruit knife she carried in her shoulder bag. Bridget Nichols, 50, the newly appointed deputy high commissioner to the Solomon Islands, tripped while carrying a box of office equipment in 2002. As she fell, her open bag swung across her body, the small blade penetrating her chest as she hit the ground.

A cheesemaker died after becoming trapped in a three-storey whey-making machine, after either falling or being sucked into a pipe leading to the device. Richard Kinloch, 23, of Matamata, New Zealand, died in 2002 at the factory near Tokoroa, in what was described as a one-in-a-million mishap.

After losing his driving license due to drunk driving in 1998, lift engineer James Raynor, 61, hit upon an ingenious way of exiting the world. He tied a noose to the top of an elevator shaft in Leicester, stood on the top of the lift and waited in the dark for it to go down. Eventually, James was killed when someone called the lift to a lower floor.

Alan Wardour, 52, was killed in 1998 after falling into a vat of molten zinc heated to 400C. Despite suffering 100% burns after being completely submerged in the

zinc at a galvanizing factory in Witham, Essex, Alan was still able to drag himself out of the vat before finally succumbing.

Mark Billington, 35, of Halifax, West Yorkshire, died in 2002 when he suffered an epileptic fit, fell out of bed and got his head stuck in a wastepaper basket. He was found with a duvet wrapped around him and his head securely wedged in the 10in-deep basket.

Hosiery knitter Hardial Singh, 41, was impaled by a broom handle up into the gut after he slipped while resting on it as he tried to open a window in his house in Leicester in 1992. The handle perforated his rectal wall, and despite an operation to remove the impaled bowel, he died when blood clots entered his lungs two weeks later.

A driver died in a freak accident in 1999 after a spark from jump leads turned his car into a fireball. Lecturer Raymond Whitby, 53, was towing a friend's car when it was hit from behind by a van. The fuel tank of Mr Whitby's car ruptured and burst into flames on the M3 at Chertsey, Surrey. The jump leads running between the two cars were being used to run hazard lights.

A mock jousting tournament at Rockingham Castle, Northamptonshire, in 2007 went tragically wrong for 54-year-old Paul Allen, a professional re-enactor, when a splinter from a wooden lance went through the eye slit of his medieval helmet and into his eye socket. Paul died a week later in hospital. The jousting match was being filmed for a planned *Time Team* special on Channel 4 about Edward III's round table at Windsor Castle.

An obsession with personal hygiene proved the downfall of 16-year-old Jonathan Capewell, from Oldham. The teenager was obsessed with smelling fresh and would spray his entire body with deodorant at least twice a day. He died in 1998 from an internal build-up of propane and butane. The same fate befell Thomas Townsend, also 16, who sprayed deodorant all over his body every day instead of showering. He was found dead in 2015 on the landing outside his room at a children's room in Millfield, Folkestone, also the victim of a fatal internal build-up of butane. 45 empty cans of deodorant were found in Thomas's room.

Jane McDonald, 31, was visiting a distant relative, Reverend Sharon Colvin, at a Church of Scotland manse in Airdrie, North Lanarkshire, in 2003 when she slipped and landed on a knife sitting upright in a dishwasher, piercing her heart. Jane, originally from near Bathgate, West Lothian, was rushed to Monklands General Hospital but died shortly after admission.

Allan Spencer, 64, managed to run himself over in a pub car park in 2003. Allan, 64, from Tolleshunt D'Arcy in Essex, was reversing his automatic Nissan with the door open and looking out, but suffered a heart attack and fell from the vehicle under the wheels of the moving car, suffering fatal injuries in the process.

Sharon Minister, 30, was fatally scalded in 2002 when a plastic water tank in the roof overheated and melted, dumping fifty gallons of boiling water on her bed. Her boyfriend, who was sleeping beside her at their home in Penzance, Cornwall, survived, but Sharon died in hospital a week later. Because of a faulty thermostat, the hot water tank was able to reach boiling point instead of stabilising at 60C. The hot water flowed into the cold water tank in the loft until eventually that too was filled with boiling water.

Ralph Bregos, 40, spent more than two years wondering if a suitable donor heart would ever become available. When news reached his Kentucky home in 1996 that a heart had finally been found, Bregos became so excited by the news that he suffered a massive, fatal heart attack.

Politician Stanley Goldman denounced the incumbent of the mayoral position in Hollywood, Florida, during a campaign appearance in 1986 as being too old to lead the city, then moments later suffered a fatal heart attack. Goldman, 69, who had a history of heart trouble, was pronounced dead an hour after he collapsed during an appearance at a social club. Moments before his heart attack, Goldman portrayed Mayor David Keating, 77, as too old to do a good job.

Ray Washbrook, 26, foolishly climbed into a giant industrial tumble drier to remove some trapped linen in 1996, only for it to start with him inside. For 20 minutes his body was thrown around the machine in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, as it reached temperatures of 110C. His body lay undiscovered for more than six hours, and while the factory supervisor heard noises inside the machine, he thought it had broken down and Ray had gone home as a result. He died from multiple injuries and burns.

Sgt Kevin Waterhouse, 39, a Red Devil parachutist, accidentally killed himself in 2000 after trying to engage in autoerotic asphyxiation with a tree. Waterhouse, of Farnham, Surrey, was found dead wearing a PVC suit, rubber mini skirt, face mask, gloves and stockings tied around his wrist, and was hanging by a dog lead draped with a bra and red knickers. Coroner Andrew Bradley gave the sanest response imaginable at the inquest: "The message to anyone who leads that kind of life is, don't - it's fatal."

Police officers are also guilty of such behaviour, especially if their first name is Andrew. In 1999, the body of PC Andrew Gibb, of Rufford, Lancashire, was found strangled in women's clothing after he put a rope around his neck in a sexual experiment. And in 2001, PC Andrew Rennie, 44, was found dead wearing women's clothing. PC Rennie, from Aldridge, West Midlands, was discovered in 2001 after failing to show up on his beat. He was found suspended on a convoluted system of ropes and supports, clad in ladies' clothing and a wig as part of a sex game which went horribly wrong.

William Taylor, 75, was walking his dogs in Cramond, Edinburgh, in 1999 when winds of up to 90mph picked up William and flung him into the River Almond, causing him to drown.

A karate fanatic was killed by his own punching bag after accidentally wiring it up to the mains. Electrician Ian Norton, 25, from Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, used his know-how to rewire his gym room with new light fittings, but accidentally connected cables to the metal chains from which the bag hung. The rig-up pumped 240 volts through his body when he took a casual punch in 1999.

In 1998, a court in the northern Malaysian state of Penak sentenced 33-year-old P. Kanatazan to 18 months in jail for suffocating his wife with a pillow during sex. Prosecutors told the court that Kanatazan had pressed the pillow on 36-year-old Lim Sat Lee's face to keep her from making loud noises. After about five minutes, he realized Lim was motionless.

A DIY enthusiast was killed when the blade of his electric saw shattered and ricocheted pieces into his neck, severing his arteries and almost decapitating him. Leslie Pilling, 22, was using the handheld saw to help a friend cut stones in Coatbridge, North Lanarkshire, in 1997 when pieces of the blade exploded into his neck.

Afghan asylum seeker Saliamin Akrami, 32, accidentally killed himself by urinating on a live rail, sending 600 volts shooting into the tip of his penis. Saliamin, who was living in Willesden, west London, convulsed and collapsed onto the rail in 1999. The same fate befell an unnamed 41-year-old Polish tourist at Vauxhall station, south London, in 2008, dying from a 750-volt shock.

A blood transfusion worker died from the traumatic shock of severing the tip of a finger after trapping his hand in the metal frame of a camp bed. Bernard O'Reilly,

44, was entertaining a few friends in his flat in Lanark, South Lanarkshire, in 2001 when the freak accident occurred.

A pub landlord killed himself after refusing to dress in flares and wig for a new seventies themed pub. Donald Cameron, 39, was told to wear the outfit by bosses who took over his former premises in Birmingham in 1998. But he was adamant he wasn't going to wear the cheesy outfit, and after it became clear the change in direction was irreversible, he gassed himself in his car.

Church gardener Arthur Handy, 70, turned into a human fireball in front of wedding guests at a church in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, in 1995. He had filled a lawn mower with petrol to prepare the churchyard for the wedding photographs but was engulfed in flames after turning on a shed light.

A 45-year-old man, detained in a northern Japan police cell, committed suicide in 1996 by stuffing five metres of toilet paper down his throat. The man, from Hokkaido, had been detained after being accused of setting fire to his own shop for insurance purposes. Police found him with 5.5 yards of toilet paper down his throat.

A teacher injured by a javelin in a freak accident at a school died in hospital in 1999 from a resultant chest infection. Jon Desborough, 41, was taking an athletics session at Liverpool College when his eye was pierced by the blunt end of the spear. It was understood the PE and geography teacher lost his footing and slipped while going to retrieve the javelin.

A week before she was due to give birth, Wendy Yates, 22, went to her grandmother's funeral in 1994. She was at her parents' home in Kings Lynn, Norfolk, when the hearse arrived. The shock of seeing the hearse seemed to trigger a huge rupture of the aorta which caused Wendy to collapse dead, but thinking she had merely fainted, the rest of the mourners continued to the funeral of Violet Yates, 77, leaving Wendy with her sixteen-year-old sister and an off-duty nurse, who called an ambulance.

A gravedigger died during a 1996 funeral at a cemetery near Sydney, Australia. The 57-year-old man collapsed whilst widening a grave, banging his head on a gravestone which triggered a massive heart attack.

Two South Korean lorry drivers collided into each other in 1995 on Route 1, the main highway between Seoul and Busan. Both were unharmed in the incident, but

both were so furious at each other that they got out of their cabs to argue, where they were both run over by a city-to-city bus.

Hong Kong lorry driver Ling Yiu-hung spent so much time in gridlocked traffic in 1998 that he was fatally overcome by carbon monoxide in the cab of his vehicle.

Two passengers died driving in a car near the Iranian town of Khaf in 2001 when an eagle flying overhead dropped a cobra into the vehicle. The snake promptly bit them.

Motorist Ray Langston was so determined not to be parted from his car keys that when they fell down a drain in 1996, he squeezed through the 48cm space to retrieve them. Unfortunately for the 41-year-old from Detroit, he became pinned headfirst in the drain and ultimately drowned.

Anthony Hall's bizarre obsession with ambulances and police cars led him to jump in front of emergency vehicles on their way to 999 calls. But the 45-year-old's cheap thrills came to an end in 2008 when he was hit by a fast-response paramedic's car in Nottingham.

A wildlife lover was mauled by lions while on safari in Zimbabwe in 1999 after forgetting to zip his tent door shut. David Pleydell-Bouverie, 19, fled from the tent after a lion stuck its head in. He ran away with the big cat in hot pursuit following the attack but was later found dead nearby. David had also forgotten to keep a whistle nearby to alert guides to any danger.

The undoing of Lisa Nicholls, an 18-year-old bio-chemistry student, was the result of a cramped bathroom. Lisa, who studied at James College, York University, attempted to get off the toilet in her accommodations in 2003, only to fall in the 6.5ft by 3.5ft room. She knocked herself out when her head hit the sink, ended up bent double with her feet in the shower and her head under the sink, and ultimately suffocated.

Arthur Sharland, 77, from Shepherd's Bush, London, spent most of his life plugging himself into the mains for the thrill of it. He electrocuted himself to death in 1989 and was found with two crocodile clips attaching bare electric wires to his chest, his body a mass of tiny scars from his years of abuse.

Afflicted with a lifelong fear of dentists, 26-year-old Walter Hallas, of Leeds, encouraged a friend to cure his toothache by punching out his painful tooth.

Unfortunately, the blow knocked him to the ground and he fractured his skull on the concrete floor. He died six days later in hospital in 1979.

After engaging in a heated argument with his girlfriend in 1996, distraught 20-year-old Kevin Murray, from Edinburgh, decided to commit suicide by hanging himself from the 'Way Out' sign at Wester Hailes railway station.

Joan Davies-Jones, 72, of Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, died in 1995 when she slipped in her bathroom and impaled herself on her toilet brush, sending it straight through her left eye and into her brain. Traces of vomit in the bungalow and in the toilet bowl suggested that Joan, a retired pharmacist, became ill during the night and collapsed on the brush. It is unknown if Joan died instantly.

Pensioner John Woodward died in a "queen's torture chamber" where he was tied up and whipped. Police found John's naked body in "corrective therapist" Kim Tarren's house in Handsworth, West Midlands, surrounded by chains and whips. Kim, 32, explained that John, 69, of Worcester, "liked corporal punishment". John died in 1990 after sniffing amyl nitrate, known for its psychoactive effect.

Deeply religious Donald Allanson, 41, of Norton, Yorkshire, became upset in 1985 when he heard that a close friend was having an adulterous affair. Such was his hurt that Donald tied a chainsaw between the branches of a tree, jammed the throttle full on, and walked into it, beheading himself.

Irishman Thomas Brady was stabbed to death with a sharpened table knife while incarcerated in Dublin's Mountjoy prison in 2000 because his constant, loud snoring drove his cellmate, Laurence Murphy, insane.

Sanoon Thammakai, a 47-year-old farmer from the Thai province of Ayutthaya, died from a heart attack when he opened his electricity bill in 1997. Usually the bill was for around 200 baht (£4.30), but due to a mistake at the electricity company, the printed amount this time was 19,249 baht (£421), which triggered a coronary. Residents at the village noted they also received ludicrous bills by mistake, but Thammakai was the only one to take the power company seriously enough to drop dead.

A DIY snoring cure killed 27-year-old Mark Gleeson, of Headley Down, Hampshire, in 1996. Obese Mark suffered from an incurable snoring problem, so he stuffed two tampons up his nostrils to try and stifle the noise. Unfortunately, he suffocated in his sleep.

Birmingham man John Aldron, 63, was doing a friend a favour by towing his car to the garage in 1999. When the tow rope became detached, he stopped to fix it. However, he was directly under the front of the car when another vehicle careered into it, having failed to spot the stationery cars. He died from severe head injuries.

A 60-year-old man who was thrown into the air in celebration at his retirement party in Ritto, near Kyoto, Japan, in 2008, died after his colleagues failed to catch him and he fell to the floor. The fall damaged his neck and backbone, leaving him paralyzed, and he eventually died of blood poisoning.

In Accra, Ghana, in 1993, Theophilous Kouame Gakpo, 23, was in too much of a hurry to queue for the public toilets, so he enlisted two of his friends to go round the back with him and lever the lid off the septic tank. He then squatted down to relieve himself over the edge but slipped on ground muddy after heavy rain and toppled into the pit. Municipal officials were called and rushed to the scene to empty the tank but failed to find the man's body.

In 2005, a South Korean man, Lee Seung-seop, died after playing *StarCraft* for fifty hours with few breaks. Lee, a 28-year-old industrial boiler repairman, collapsed after playing the game at an internet café in the city of Taegu. After the marathon gaming session, which saw him not sleep properly and eat very little, he collapsed and died from heart failure stemming from exhaustion.

A woman drowned in just twelve inches of water after tripping and falling head-first into her ornamental pond. Rachel Greenaway, 32, was knocked unconscious when she hit her head in the accident at her cottage in Bobbington, Staffordshire, in 2000.

A runaway car ploughed into Leo Scurr, 56, as he made his way to work in Newcastle. The owner of the driverless car is believed to have left the handbrake off and it rolled away out of control before hitting Leo in 2005.

A pensioner died when a man tried to clean his shoes on the brushes of a moving escalator at Snow Hill Railway Station in Birmingham in 2002. The laces of his boots jammed in the mechanism and triggered the emergency stop button, bringing the escalator to a sudden halt. Teresa Connolly, 77, fell over and fractured her knee in three places, and despite an operation, she died from a fatal infection four months later.

A successful operation in Bordeaux to cure deafness in one ear left solicitor Linda Harvey, 44, with an incurable tinnitus after cabin pressure on the flight home

suddenly dropped and damaged her inner ear. It was so bad that it drove Linda to jump to her death from a hotel room in Hastings in 1997.

A 39-year-old Canadian man died after eating and choking on his own flesh. A maid at a hotel in Winnipeg, Manitoba, found him dead in his room in 1998. He had severe calluses on his feet and apparently tried to cure the condition by biting off the dead skin. "This really makes you wonder about human nature," noted Jim Hull, spokesperson for the chief medical examiner. The man had no history of mental problems.

Jeff Frolio, a 45-year-old television cameraman, was working on a report about how dangerous an intersection in Omaha, Nebraska, was in 2004 when he was struck and killed by a car.

Farmer Alex Millar, 63, and his assistant, Scott Herries, 23, fell unconscious after inhaling poisonous gases from a slurry pit on the outskirts of Dumfries in 2003 as they tried to rescue a cow. They then fell into the pit and drowned.

Farmer William Salter, 68, was impaled on a tractor fork in 2002 when its brakes failed near Slains, Aberdeenshire, puncturing his abdomen.

Charles Williams, 59, was found dead in his Kensington, Liverpool, residence in 2001 wearing a large dog chain and collar. Even more bizarre was that he had swallowed 26 5p coins, five 1p coins, 14 safety pins and 200 air rifle pellets, and had died from peritonitis caused by the perforation of the stomach. He was described as "eccentric" at the inquest.

Self-styled 'Witch King' Teodoro Martinez and six members of his cult died in 2000 while performing an exorcism on a 15-year-old in Mexico City. The mixture of coal and incense burnt during the ritual gave off carbon monoxide, poisoning them.

Leon Resnick, 31, was trying out a customised jet-propelled water bike on a lake north of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 2001 travelling at about 55mph when he was killed in an apparent collision with a flying duck. A co-worker who was watching turned to pick up a radar to check Leon's speed, and when he turned back Leon was no longer aboard the craft. He died of a blow to his head, while the unfortunate bird's carcass was found nearby. There were feathers on the water bike's handlebars.

While cleaning animal pens at his family home in Romania in 2001, Florin Pirliceanu misplaced his Nokia 3310 cell phone. He hanged himself, leaving behind a suicide note that read "I have lost my phone so I have no alternative but to take my own life".

Builder Ian Miller, 55, was cycling along a road near Aysgarth in North Yorkshire in 2000 when a pheasant got caught in the spokes of his bicycle. He fell, hit his head on a wall, and died in hospital three days later.

Sean Cobern, 20, of Whiteparish, Wiltshire, went to sleep after a power cut in 1999. When power was restored, his television set, which had been on, caught fire and he died after inhaling its toxic fumes.

Ben Pipes, 58, died after being hit in the neck and chest by a large umbrella dislodged from a hotel room in Bremen, Georgia, by strong winds in 1999.

Samuel Strickson, 39, of Nebraska, tried to stuff more clothes into his top-loading washing machine in 1999 by stamping on them. He kicked the on-button, trapped his feet, and died during the spin cycle.

Chilean police officer Hector Cuevas became a national celebrity in 1995 when a bank robber's bullet was stopped by a pen inside his pocket, and he suffered only an ink stain. In 1996, a eucalyptus tree fell on his squad car and fatally crushed him.

Sarah Hulphers, a 20-year-old volunteer at Yellowstone National Park, and two of her friends decided to take a moonlit dip in one of the park's many pools in 2000. Unfortunately, in the dark they picked a volcanic hot spring and Sarah was boiled alive.

Daniel Paling, 17, of Solihull, died from fatal head injuries after falling from the trunk of a moving car in 2003. The driver had told him to get off the car, and thought he'd done so until she saw him hit the ground in her rear-view mirror, by which point she was going at almost 30mph. She was cleared of any responsibility for his stupidity.

After a heavy day boozing in 2007, Anthony Stubbs, 55, returned to his Huddersfield home in a drunken daze. But as he stumbled down the stairs after going to the toilet, he knocked a picture off the wall as he fell, shattering it into pieces, with shards of glass embedding themselves in his neck. He was so drunk that he did not realize how serious his injuries were and he bled to death.

An apprentice tyre fitter was blown across a garage yard when a 5ft digger tyre he was working on exploded in his face. Donald Kelly, 19, from the village of Cleland, North Lanarkshire, suffered serious head and face injuries after the accident in 2005.

A DIY enthusiast from Holywell, Flintshire, died after almost chopping his own leg off with an angle grinder. Claude Jones, 64, was working on dismantling a car in 2003 when part of the disc from the grinder flew off and tore through his thigh muscle and femoral artery. He tried to tie a makeshift tourniquet around his leg but died in minutes.

Vicar Thomas Jones, 69, was hiring an automatic Vauxhall Cavalier from a garage in Llanelli in 1998. He was being shown the controls to the loan car when it slipped into reverse, hitting him in the head with the open driver's door.

A 35-tonne digger went runaway after falling off a low-loader transporter in 2006, before crossing a trunk road and ploughing into a motorist making her way home. Christina Fraser, 24, from Ross-shire, died instantly after the digger appeared from nowhere and hit her car.

Detective-Sergeant Daniel Edwards, 40, was found in 1997 trapped between a tree and his patrol car on a road between Muizenberg and Fish Hoek near Cape Town, South Africa. It appeared that Sgt Edwards had parked his vehicle on a slope when he went to urinate, but it then rolled down the embankment and crushed him.

A bus driver died when his head became trapped in the automatic doors of his bus. James McKay, 64, from Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry, Ireland, had been driving to collect schoolchildren in 2003 when he was found wedged in the pneumatic doors of his stationary bus by a passing construction worker. He had either fallen, tripped or collapsed as the doors closed, and was killed by the pressure on his neck. In 2014, bus driver Darren Morley, 50, died when he got his neck trapped in his single decker's folding passenger doors. Darren, of Willesden, Greater Manchester, had got out of his cab to check why they had not closed after the last of his passengers got off. A passer-by found his head and hands trapped outside the bus while his body was inside. One of the two doors jammed, most likely because a screw had caught in the gap under the door.

New York City maintenance man Archie Tyler was standing in 60cm of water while clearing rubbish from a reservoir drain in the Bronx in 2001 when his unclogging caused a water vortex, dragging him down a 50cm-wide pipe, where he drowned.

College student Nicola Cattle, 17, died in 2005 whilst sitting in the back seat of a friend's car whilst he was picking up his new colour television. Whilst driving back home, the vehicle was involved in a head-on smash near Caerphilly, Wales, and the heavy 32in TV set was catapulted into Nicola. She suffered crush injuries before dying two weeks later in hospital.

Jenna O'Keefe, 17, went to sit on a window ledge to avoid cigarette smoke at a party in Coatbridge, North Lanarkshire, in 2003, only to lose her balance and fall more than 150ft to her death.

Michigan woman Maxine Ann Keggerreis, 79, tried to save time in 1997 by exercising her dog while riding her lawn mower. Unfortunately the dog's leash became caught up in the mower, sending machine, dog and owner into a pond, from which only the mower was retrieved in a working fashion.

A 68-year-old resident of Bonn, Germany, collapsed from a heart attack at his residence in 1995. Any hopes of him surviving were destroyed by his aggressive pet rottweiler, Otto, who threatened paramedics when they arrived. By the time paramedics pacified Otto, the old man was long gone.

While working in high winds in the Wirral in 2007, security guard Robert Street, 59, was killed by a 480kg fence which was dislodged by the gales before flying through the air and crashing into Robert.

Welsh holidaymaker Karen Gibbs, 45, stood on a chair to reach a 6ft-high wall-mounted TV at the luxury apartment where she was staying in Majorca in 2002. The chair's legs slipped on the polished marble floor, sending her careering onto a coffee table and puncturing a lung.

A freak accident that killed a mother and her four-year-old son in 1998 was believed to have been caused by a driver suffering a sneezing fit. Yasmin Zalam and her son Kamran died after they were hit by a car on the hard shoulder of the M5 in Gloucestershire. Police later said they believed a 64-year-old woman who was driving the car that hit the victims suffered from a sneezing fit which caused her to leave the carriageway. In 2007, 47-year-old Gary Proctor and his 16-year-old son, James, were killed on the M62 motorway near Rochdale, Greater Manchester, when Imran Hussain's Audi Q7 ploughed into the back of their Fiat Punto whilst Hussain was busy masturbating.

Raheela Kousar Hussain, 32, died in 1998 after she apparently overdosed on the common spice nutmeg. Raheela, a childminder from Walthamstow, east London, developed a cold and attempted to remedy the problem by taking several teaspoonfuls of nutmeg. Eventually, she swallowed so much of the spice that she became extremely dehydrated and copiously drank water, which led to a fatal state of delirium from which she died in hospital.

An animal lover was choked to death by her dog's bowl in 1997. Carole Williams, 54, tripped in her pantry while drunk and fell face down into the dish. She was unconscious and suffocated because the rim of the bowl pressed against her neck and she couldn't breathe. Carole's elderly mother was in the next room but was unaware that anything happened, and her body wasn't found until a friend called at her home in Townhill, Swansea.

In an indirect way, cigarettes killed 17-year-old Ross Willetts of Walsall. The passenger of a Mini driven by his friend in 1997, Ross finished smoking a cigarette and attempted to throw it out the window, only for it to blow straight back in and land on his friend's lap. Surprised, the friend lost control and crashed into a lamppost, killing Ross.

A vagrant baked to death in 1996 after lying sozzled in the park for six hours during the summer heatwave. Patrick McVarish, 45, was toasted almost black and his temperature topped 120C when he was rushed from Mile End Park, in the London borough of Tower Hamlets, to hospital. He died soon after and staff nicknamed him the "boil in the bag body".

Top advertising executive Christopher Martin, 48, drowned in 1995 when a kinky bondage session went horribly wrong. Former Saatchi and Saatchi employee Martin died after trussing himself in a water-filled underground chamber in his garden. His naked body was found by his brother. Former neighbour Frank Harris noted how, two decades previous, he had to cut a naked Mr Martin down from the rafters. "I found him with his wrists and ankles tied, hanging through the roof space," he said.

A couple who died when their car crashed in 1995 were probably having oral sex. Driver Malcolm Whitham, 41, had his trousers down while Susan Charman, 37, was topless and lying across the gearstick. Sergeant Roy Simpson told the inquest hearing: "Mr Whitham was not committed 100 percent to driving." The couple – parents-of-four from Rochdale, Greater Manchester – had been drinking and experts said the brakes were faulty.

Harry Cogram, 84, a veteran of the D-Day Normandy landings, hanged himself in sheltered accommodation in Peckham, south London, in 1998 after the council threatened him with eviction over rent arrears of 3p. The coroner noted that Harry "did indeed give his all for us". Except for 3p, that is.

Vicar Christopher Morgan died in 1991 falling from a rack meant to ease his bad back. His feet slipped out of the device on which he hung upside down and he crashed head first to the floor in his home in Potter Heigham, Norfolk. Mr Morgan, 69, was sacked earlier in the year after complaints that he molested women and sunbathed nude.

A teenage athlete died in 2007 after applying too much muscle cream on her skin. Arielle Newman, a 17-year-old cross country runner from New York, used excessive amounts of methyl salicylate, an anti-inflammatory drug used to sooth aching muscles. An abnormal amount was absorbed into her body, proving fatal.

A washing machine killed a 12-year-old Newark, New Jersey, boy in 2003 only minutes after he had said his prayers in church. Cops said DeShaw Young was helping his mother do the laundry when he tossed a sweater into the washer and the garment wrapped around his neck. The washing machine, which kept going even though the door was open, caught the sweater, causing it to twist tightly and choke the life out of the lad. The force of the material around his windpipe prevented Young from calling out for help and he suffocated. Meanwhile, a boy of three who got stuck in a tumble dryer died because of his curiosity. Jordan Hutchinson liked to put his head in the machine and shout to hear the echo. His father, Tony, had tried to stop him but "Jordan was a real character. He was hyperactive." Jordan was playing hide-and-seek with their dog in Slatyford, Newcastle upon Tyne, in 1998 when Tony went upstairs for 10 minutes to feed his baby son. The machine was not on and the door was slightly ajar, but Jordan suffocated because he was so tightly wedged inside.

Hungarian painter, poet and sculptor Mihaly Gubis was killed when his one-and-a-half-ton sculpture "Woman with Four Breasts" fell on him. Gubis and a Chinese sculptor had been loading the 24ft high artwork made from sand onto the back of a lorry in Mundelsheim, Germany, in 2006. At one point during their attempt to transport the sculpture to an exhibition, the huge piece of art lurched violently to one side, leading Mihaly to try and push it back with his body. However, the 58-year-old artist only succeeded in throwing it further off balance, causing it to fall on him. He was crushed and died instantly.

Shawron Hughes, a 21-year-old motorist driving through the Bronx in 2005, was shot in the back of the head. He lost control of his car and ploughed into a street sign. While Shawron miraculously survived his escapade, 42-year-old Wellington Contreras wasn't so lucky. The sign fell on him and sliced his neck and head, and he died later in hospital.

Sandra Ferguson, 43, of Paisley, near Glasgow, was amongst the passengers on a 2003 National Express bus service from Aberdeen to London when she became increasingly agitated to smoke a cigarette. When she was barred from leaving the coach when it stopped over for a break in Carlisle, the desperate Sandra walked next to the driver's door when the bus was on the M6 between Shap and Penrith, opened it, and fell out of the bus travelling at 60mph, suffering multiple fatal injuries. "*Take the National Express when your life's in a mess/It'll make you smile…*"

In 2008, Judy Kay Zagorski travelled from her home in Michigan to enjoy the pleasures of bounding around the Florida Keys on her father's motorboat. The 57-year-old was zooming around Vaca Key when a 75lb stingray leapt out of the water and fatally hit her in the face. An autopsy was unable to determine whether Judy died from the impact or a puncture wound, which had initially suggested that the ray's poisonous barb may have been the direct cause of death.

John M. Hwilka, a 37-year-old manager of a tyre store in Milwaukee, was demonstrating to his mother how to unload, load and use the safety on a .45 handgun in 1998 when their pet dog jumped on his chest, causing the gun to fire and kill him. In 1975, farmer Franz Gilly, 22, of Ravelsbach, Austria, was killed by his puppy which jumped up and hit the trigger of the gun he was holding.

Baptist minister Gary Aldridge, from Montgomery, Alabama, was renowned for being a vicious opponent of sex outside of marriage and of homosexuality, and had been a strong supporter of a law that banned the sale of sex aids in the state of Alabama. In 2007, Aldridge's body was discovered in his house, face down on the floor, hogtied, wearing two full wetsuits and a diving face mask, and with a dildo in his anus, covered with a condom. Aldridge's official cause of death was "accidental mechanical asphyxia", or autoeroticism gone wrong. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the Alabama DA office attempted to suppress the publication of the autopsy results, which were ultimately leaked to the Smoking Gun website.

In 2001, 28-year-old Peter John Robinson slipped as he went to feed his cat Piper at his residence in the West Coast region of New Zealand. He knocked himself unconscious and managed to fall face down into Piper's water bowl, where he drowned in less than 5cm of water.

In 1920, King Alexander of Greece, 27, was injured when a domestic macaque attacked the king's German Shepherd dog in the palace's vineyards. Alexander attempted to separate the two animals, but as he did so, another monkey attacked him and bit him deeply in the leg and torso. That evening, sepsis set in on Alexander's wounds, and he died from blood poisoning.

Aubrey Herbert, the Conservative MP for Yeovil, was plagued during most of his life with poor eyesight, and was almost completely blind by his early 40s. In 1923, he was somehow convinced that a cure for his ails was to have all of his teeth removed, but the botched operation led to Herbert contracting a fatal bout of sepsis.

Felix Faure, the President of France, unexpectedly died from a bout of apoplexy, or the bleeding within internal organs, at the age of 58 in 1899 in the Elysee Palace in Paris. Reputedly, Faure was engaged in sexual activities in his office with his 30-year-old mistress, Marguerite Steinheil, when he died while receiving a blowjob.

Japanese politician Nitaro Itoh, 41, a restaurant owner from Osaka, thought staging an attack on himself, which he would blame on his opponents, would boost his chances of election to the House of Representatives by generating a sympathy vote. In 1979, he got an employee to beat him up before he stabbed himself in the leg, hoping to campaign from the hospital. The injury to his thigh severed an artery, and Itoh bled to death before he could crawl inside his house and get help.

Billy Snedden, a former Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives, died in a New South Wales motel in 1987, aged 60, after suffering a fatal heart attack while having sex with an ex-girlfriend of his son.

Stephen Milligan, a prominent British politician who was regarded as a rising star within the Conservative Party, died aged 45 in 1994. The MP for Eastleigh was found in his Hammersmith property by his secretary, naked except for a pair of stockings and suspenders, with an electrical flex tied around his neck, a black bin liner over his head and an orange in his mouth. The coroner concluded he had died of autoerotic asphyxiation – the intentional restriction of oxygen to the brain for the purposes of sexual arousal.

Dmitry Butakov, of Lipetsk in Russia, survived an accident in 1992 when he came into contact with 10,000 volts of electricity, convincing him that he was immortal. In 2004, he called a press conference where he proceeded to drink a half-litre of

antifreeze. Halfway through attempting to drink a second half-litre, Butakov collapsed, fell into a coma and died in hospital the next day.

Three Indonesian cult members were beaten to death by fellow cultists when their doomsday prediction that the world would meet its end on the 9th September 1999 failed to materialize. Like many cults around the country, residents of Sukmajaya, east Java, were told to prepare for the apocalypse on that fateful day at 9am. They sold their personal possessions and locked themselves up in their homes for the nine days before the cataclysmic event. When nothing happened, the villagers lost control and brutalised the cultists.

Theresa Bleacher, 48, of York, Pennsylvania, was killed in 1999 when she fell on a glass she was carrying. She apparently tripped in the darkness getting ready for bed and fell on the water goblet in her bedroom, cutting her jugular veins.

A Chinese lorry driver ran over and killed a small boy and demolished part of a house after a helper with a stutter couldn't tell him to stop reversing in time. Loin Deling, from Henan province, asked a man to help him reverse safely in 2000, but the helper found himself unable to shout "Ting che!" [Stop!] in time.

Thomas Giacometti, 36, of New York, was building shelves to store cages for his twelve pet pythons in 1999 when he fell off a ladder and onto a drill. The drill bit penetrated the right side of his skull, killing him instantly.

A Manhattan man died in 2005 after he got drunk, fell over and sliced open an artery on the family fish tank – which he recently brought home in an effort to teach his girlfriend's kids responsibility. Antonio Perez, 40, was enjoying a drunken night with his partner and her partner when he tried to rise from the recliner, but he lost his balance and put his right elbow through the ten-gallon tank. The glass shattered, slicing Perez's arm and sending the seven or so goldfish to the floor.

Bryan Loudermilk's body was found in 1999 in a specially-constructed pit beneath a board which was underneath a rear wheel of his sports utility vehicle. After questioning his widow Stephanie at home in Okeechobee, Florida, police concluded that Bryan got a sexual thrill from being driven over, but the stunt had gone horribly wrong. When he was freed from the weight, lactic acid and other toxins flooded into his bloodless legs through the rest of his circulatory system, poisoning his body and initiating shock. He died in hospital within hours.

A 17-year-old gymnast bouncing on the sofa at her birthday party in 1999 was killed when she lost her balance and bounced out of the window of a sixth floor flat in Berlin.

A pub landlady stepped backwards into a volcanic pool of red-hot lava whilst trying to snap a photo of her husband during a trip to the Azores. Gillian Blann, 58, from Warwickshire, had asked her husband to pose for a holiday picture in 2005 and was trying to get him into shot when she fell into the boiling pool of liquid. She died a week later from her burns.

Michael Toye, 43, who lived near Southampton, Hampshire, died after dousing himself in white spirit and setting fire to himself. He had been involved in a drunken discussion with a friend in 2007 over whether white spirit was flammable, firmly telling his buddy that the distillate couldn't catch fire.

A cheery builder trapped his head in a mini digger after accidentally nudging a lever while hanging out of the cab and waving at pals. Lance Taylor, 23, of Gloucester, jolted the machine's bucket arm, killing himself instantly when it swung back into his head. He had been working on a housing development at the time of the 2005 incident but was not qualified to operate the machine.

Timothy Clews, 47, of Cheltenham, died suddenly as he was having his toenails clipped by a chiropodist in a care home. Timothy, who suffered from a rare complication of rheumatoid arthritis, had a fatal but silent heart attack when his nails were cut for the first time in six months in 2007. The chiropodist had finished cutting his talons when she realized that Timothy had died.

Kevin Mackle, a 19-year-old university student in Lennoxville, Quebec, attempted to get a free Coke from a vending machine on campus whilst inebriated in 1998. With one arm buried deep in the workings, Mackle began to violently rock the dispenser back and forth. The 420kg machine tipped over, fatally crushing the already smashed student.

An undertaker from Kentucky was driving a hearse with a coffin along Highway 27 through Cold Spring, in 1989, *en route* to a funeral, when a car swung out from the other side of the road ahead of him. Jack Volkering, 59, swerved to avoid the head-on collision, but the rapid movement broke the coffin in the back of the hearse free of its restraining straps. The casket slammed forward, smashing into Jack and killing him instantly.

On her first night out after giving birth to her daughter six months earlier, 28-year-old Nailah Ishaq, of Wallsend, North Tyneside, decided to straddle a bucking bronco ride in a local bar in 2007. But the thirty seconds she was on the ride triggered a heart abnormality she was born with, and she collapsed half an hour later before dying in hospital.

A young zookeeper was mauled to death by a tiger in 2001 after slipping off the top of a cage which he had climbed in order to defecate. Xu Xiaodong, 18, worked as a tiger keeper at a wild animal park in Jinan City of Shandong province, China, looking after four Bengal tigers. Colleagues said they found Xu's loosened belt, toilet paper and excrement at the spot where he died and concluded that when he decided to relieve himself on top of the tigers, he either slipped off the not-fully-constructed cage or was dragged to his death by one of the angry cats.

In 2003, 28-year-old Baba Jallow, of the Gambia, was accused by his fellow townspeople of being a witchdoctor and 'penis snatcher'. In certain African communities, it is believed that a sorcerer, simply by shaking hands with a man, can cause his penis to disappear. The sorcerer will then extort money from the victim, offering to return his penis only if he is offered a cash payment. So many of the townspeople were convinced that Baba was one of those sorcerers that they beat him to death with sticks and metal poles.

Guillaume Rebours, 22, decided to cross to an opposite railway platform at East Sussex's Uckfield train station in 2002 by crawling under a railway carriage. He jumped off the platform to try and catch a southbound service, only to be decapitated while scrabbling underneath an initially stationary train when it began pulling away.

While performing at a karaoke night in a Bangkok bar in 2000, Lieutenant Corporal Jirawat Sangworn was enraged when his attempt to sing the same sentimental Thai ballad for the fourth time that evening was met with jeers. When one of the patrons cried out "Get this limp prick off, we are sick of this shit," Jirawat pulled out his service revolver and fired six shots into the crowd, killing the heckler.

Phoenix, Arizona, resident David Grundman went out into the Arizonan desert to practice his marksmanship by firing at one of the state's protected saguaro cacti in 1982. However, Grundman's continuous firing at one particular cactus caused its base to crumble. As he reloaded his gun, the cactus collapsed, falling forward. Grundman was impaled by the tumbling plant and so badly crushed and speared by spines that he died before friends could take him to hospital.

Ohio teenager Milika Sloan made extra money selling magazines door-to-door. The 18-year-old proved so proficient that she earned a place at a sales conference and training program held at a Maryland motel in 1995. Regrettably, she arrived at the motel soaking wet. Drip drying as she walked up to her room, she took off her shoes and padded along the corridor in her bare feet. Arriving at the room, Milika ran her electronic key card at the exact same moment a faulty air conditioner unit caused a huge power surge, electrocuting Milika.

A pensioner tortured by the pain of his swollen gums shot himself in the head in 2003 because it became too much to bear. Kenneth MacKay, 66, of Berwick, Northumberland, suffered from a malignant swelling in his mouth, but doctors assured him this could be treated. Unfortunately it all got too much for Kenneth, and rather than wait for treatment he decided to kill himself.

In 2008, a criminal in Fresno, California, used a screwdriver to threaten an employee and rob a Mexican restaurant. Moments later, the man was found on the ground bleeding. Investigators first thought it was a hit and run accident that caused the man to fall to the ground, but they later discovered the suspect fell off his bike and stabbed himself with the screwdriver, severing an artery in his thigh.

Alex Mitchell, a 50-year-old bricklayer from King's Lynn, Norfolk, died in 1975 after continuously laughing for twenty-five minutes over a skit in the 1975 BBC sitcom *The Goodies*. The scene which Mitchell found hilarious saw a stereotypical Scotsman, wearing a kilt and playing the bagpipes, fight an Englishman whose only weapon is a black pudding. After 25 minutes of straight guffawing, Mitchell gave one last belly laugh and died from heart failure brought on by the extreme fit of laughter. His wife later wrote to the Goodies comedy troupe, thanking them for making her husband's last moments on Earth so joyous. It is suspected that Mitchell may have suffered from Long QT syndrome, a disorder of the heart's electrical activity that can cause dangerous and sudden arrhythmias, after Mitchell's granddaughter survived a heart attack in 2012.

A 33-year-old from the northern Belgian town of Pulle was on her way home from a night out in 2005 when she was cut short. Desperate to urinate, she took a short-cut through the town's cemetery and crouched down between the gravestones to relieve herself. As she tried to stand up, she lost her balance and seized hold one of the gravestones to try and stop herself from falling. In doing so, the tombstone came loose and fell on top of her. Unable to lift the stone off her, she suffocated.

A husband in Italy who lost hope of his wife waking from a four-month coma killed himself in 2005 – only for his beloved to regain consciousness hours later. Doctors said that when the wife, Rossana Bianchetto, 67, stirred, she asked for her husband, Ettore Benvegnu. 71-year-old Ettore had kept a daily vigil at Rossana's side after she had a stroke and fell into a coma four months previously. He would visit his wife daily, sometimes coming to the hospital in the northern town of Padua as many as four times a day. Giving up hope, Ettore gassed himself in the garage of the couple's house, twelve hours before Rossana woke up.

Wayne Condo, a 45-year-old mime artist from Melbourne, Australia, died of a heart attack midway through a 1998 performance. The 300 members of the audience initially thought that his collapsing to the floor and remaining motionless was part of the act.

Richard Wells was a 19-year-old deckhand on the trawler Arrow Sea working off the Queensland coast near Fraser Island. He was electrocuted in 2001 when a wave crashed over the boat's wheelhouse while he was playing on his PlayStation 2. Three other crew members suffered electric shocks and burns as they tried to help him.

A 51-year-old was cleaning a truck-mounted cement mixer in Carnarvon, Western Australia, in 2002 when the bowl moved and he became caught up in the agitator. He received an extreme mangling and died from internal injuries.

A 77-year-old woman from the Sydney suburb of Punchbowl fell into her top-opening freezer after overbalancing while attempting to retrieve some food in 1994. Whether she died immediately from head trauma sustained when she tumbled in, or whether she perished in the cold, could not be determined by an autopsy.

When Sydney resident Cory Quinn decided to commit suicide in 1994 by overdosing on sleeping tablets, he climbed into his estranged wife's freezer to die while leaving a note for his 265lb wife to read once she found his body: "Gorge on this, you fat pig!"

Motorist Abner Kriller was driving back to his home in Albany, Western Australia, in 1994 when his harmless habit of gum-chewing took a deadly turn. Police investigating the crash that killed Abner concluded that he had blew a large gum bubble that burst, leaving gum stuck on his glasses. This obscured his vision which led him to swerve off the road. The car plunged down a hillside to Abner's twisted fiery and twisted metal death below.

Kathleen Yeoman, a 46-year-old divorcee, plotted to win back the affections of her lover and neighbour by staging an elaborate fake robbery in 1998. She ransacked her house in Brixworth, Northamptonshire, tipping out drawers, throwing jewellery on her bed and piling electrical goods in the front room. Then she taped her mouth, put a plastic bag over her head and tied her hands together with self-tightening plastic ties, before leaving her front door open and laying across the doorstep of her former lover. But as she waited for his return, she vomited and choked to death because she was unable to remove the adhesive tape over her mouth. Police dismissed the incident as suspicious because £918 remained in Kathleen's purse and nothing else seemed to have been taken.

A fortune teller advised Thai businessman Boonchai Lotharakphong to put a flag on his factory roof in Lopburi to ward off bad luck. As Boonchai climbed onto the roof in 2003 to raise the flag, he slipped and fell to his death.

A chronic smoker who was dependent on oxygen to breathe died after using her oxygen mask while puffing on a cigarette. Wheelchair-bound Marion Greig, 83, who had a 60 cigarettes-a-day habit and suffered from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, used her oxygen mask to assist her breathing when she smoked in her Worcester home. But in 2007 she inadvertently ignited the tubes and pumped her room full of smoke, choking to death as a result.

Pub chef and ex-Para Mark Hunt, 40, accidentally stabbed himself in the chest with a 12-inch blade after a trick in 2005 went horribly wrong. He was showing off in front of a teenage kitchen porter at the pub in Leckhampstead, Berkshire, by plunging the knife towards his stomach and then reversing it at the last second, making it appear as if he stabbed himself. But Mark mistimed the switch and ended up thrusting the blade in so deeply it severed his spinal cord.

Doug McKay, 40 and the co-owner of an amusement park in Whidbey Island, Washington, was working on the Super Loop 2 rollercoaster in 2003 when his hair got caught on the ride. It pulled him 12 metres into the air and scalped him before he fell back down to be impaled on a fence.

Gary Harmon, a 47-year-old from Pontiac, Michigan, was admitted to hospital in 1997 suffering with asthma and emphysema. He spent nine days being treated by nurses and doctors for the conditions before returning home. Although his breathing seemed better, Gary had a persistent cough and was convinced there was something stuck in his throat. When he arrived back at the hospital, doctors were unable to prevent Harmon from choking to death. When medical examiners

conducted an autopsy, they found a latex surgical glove had been left inside his throat.

Matthew Davies, 32, drank so many pints of water a day that it flushed away his body's vital chemicals and he died from water intoxication in 2002. Matthew, of Llandudno, North Wales, drank water in preference to tea or coffee, but it washed away essential salts in his body and he sank into an irreversible coma. Patricia Hall, 72, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, who suffered from chronic schizophrenia, drank so much water that her blood was diluted and fluid built up in her lungs, killing her in 2003. 40-year-old Jacqueline Henson died in 2008 while drinking copious amount of water whilst on a diet plan. Henson shed 11.5lb in the first week of the diet, which involved drinking four litres of water a day, and after three weeks she had lost a stone, convincing her that drinking water was the key to weight loss. However, while the diet recommended drinking 4l over an entire day, Henson did so in less than two hours, and she suffered from fatal swelling of the brain.

18-year-old Troy Heather plunged to his death from a balcony while sleepwalking during a 2008 holiday abroad. Heather was staying with his girlfriend and her parents in a second-floor apartment in Minorca. The girlfriend was woken at 3am by the sound of her boyfriend hitting the ground 25ft below their flat, and Heather died from head injuries four hours later. Heather, of Surrey, was thought to have outgrown his chronic sleepwalking problem, but he had been awake for more than 24 hours before going to bed in Minorca which may have caused a recurrence of the problem.

A half-ton bullock was catapulted onto the roof of 28-year-old Piers Williams' car after wandering out into his path. The animal had escaped from a field outside Milton Keynes when local man Piers collided straight into it in 2002, bouncing it onto the bonnet and roof of his vehicle. He was knocked unconscious and lost control of his car, crashing off the road. He later died in hospital from his injuries.

Retired headmaster David Weir, 74, accidentally hit the accelerator instead of the brakes while trying to reverse his car in Alphington, Devon, in 2004. He collided into his 78-year-old wife Margaret, who was testing the rear lights of the car, and she died instantly.

French fortune teller Patrick Depalle was so supremely confident of his alleged mystic powers that, in 1986, he tried to impress a customer by playing Russian roulette. His horrified client was too shocked to intervene as Patrick, from Vichy, insisted that his spirit contacts would make sure he was protected. He pulled the

trigger, and the gun fired, smearing his brains over the wall. His last words were: "I never make a mistake".

A Danish audiologist laughed himself to death in 1989 while watching the John Cleese comedy *A Fish Called Wanda* in a Copenhagen cinema. The film contained a scene where Michael Palin's character has fish and chips stuffed up his nose. For Ole Bentzen, 71, this episode reminded him of a humorous family memory where he encouraged family members to stuff vegetables up their nostrils during dinner. This caused him to laugh for an extended period of time, increasing his heart rate and ultimately causing heart fibrillation. Cleese himself considered using the death as publicity for the film, but ultimately deemed it in poor taste.

Jessica Dubroff, a seven-year-old girl from Massachusetts, began getting a large amount of media publicity when, despite her tender age, she undertook flight lessons. Although not qualified as a pilot, Jessica readily accepted a chance to attempt to fly across mainland America in 1996 in the so-called "Sea to Shining Sea" flight. The flight, which took off from Cheyenne, Wyoming, ended in predictable results – the plane crashed, killing Jessica, her father Lloyd, and flight instructor Joe Reid. Bad water, the aircraft being overloaded, and a failure to maintain airspeed were blamed for the crash. Personally, I think it's because a seven-year-old flying a plane is never going to end well.

An unidentified man in his mid-20s was so distraught at the death of the Ivory Coast's first President, Felix Houphouet-Boigny, that he committed suicide in 1994 by jumping into the crocodile-filled moat around the presidential palace in Abidjan. Onlookers watched the body periodically resurfacing over two days before it was dragged down again in the crocodiles' jaws.

Banu Begum, a 30-year-old from Bangladesh, killed herself in 1990 after Cameroon were eliminated in the quarter-finals of the FIFA World Cup. "The elimination of Cameroon means the end of my life," her suicide note read.

Petty criminal Franco Brun was found dead in his police cell at a detention centre in Toronto, Canada, in 1987 after having killed himself by choking on the miniature Bible that was provided in every cell. Police psychiatrists noted he may have chose this way to end his life in an attempt to purge himself of demonic forces. An emergency tracheotomy, where surgeons were forced to remove the Bible page-by-page because it was deeply lodged in Franco's throat, failed.

After a night of heavy drinking while on a student bar crawl in Houston in 1994, Texan student Dave Millar went attired as Superman to a fancy-dress party. Unable

to separate fiction from reality, Millar stood on a table, shouted "I'm Supes! Look up in the sky, I can fly!" and then leapt into the air. Predictably, Millar crashed onto the floor, smashing his skull.

After collapsing in the street while shopping in Salford in 1997, 86-year-old deaf and diabetic pensioner Lionel Buckley was admitted to a special unit at the Withington Hospital. To ease his pain and recovery, Mr Buckley was put on a special air mattress. One night, nurses at the hospital heard an enormous bang and rushed to Lionel's room. They found the OAP thrown out of bed, suffering from severe burns as the smouldering remains of the exploded mattress set off the fire alarms. A subsequent investigation showed that the airbed's compressor had overheated, causing the explosion which ultimately killed Lionel within a week from septicaemia and bronchopneumonia as a result of the burns.

Keith Turnbull, 61, was stirring a large cauldron of marmalade on the stove in his Wark, Northumberland, residence just before Christmas 2003. But he had used six pounds of oranges and his stove simply could not cope, eventually pumping out excessive levels of carbon monoxide. Biochemist Keith and, sadly, his dog collapsed and died in the kitchen of his isolated home.

In 2006, church organist Ian Kemp, 48, of Teesside, was found naked, lying in a huge plastic bag attached to a vacuum cleaner in the foetal position, his legs bound at the shins with brown parcel tape and his wrists tied together by a silver chain. Kemp died from suffocation during this bizarre sex game when the vacuum sucked all the air out of the bag.

A man who was killed in 1993 during a bungee jump was attached to a cord that was 70ft too long. William Brotherton, 20, leapt from a tethered hot-air balloon over a field in Arvada, Colorado, but the company that held the jump, Bungee America, ignored safety standards and tied the far too long rope onto William's ankle.

Brian Stevenson, 33, a father-of-two from Coatbridge, North Lanarkshire, died in 2003 after falling 300ft from a hot air balloon in Napa Valley, California. Stevenson, manager of a health club at the Hilton Hotel in Bellshill, had clung to a tethering rope on the rising balloon, but lost his grip.

While unloading the dishwasher in hew newly-fitted kitchen in Hampton Hill, south-east London, in 2004, Mary Wherry, 34, was fatally electrocuted. Botched building work meant a metal, wall-mounted utensil rack gave out a tiny electric shock whenever a metal object was placed inside it. As Mary, the daughter of

former Liberal Democrat MP Jenny Tonge, put away a metal spoon, her ankle touched the metal-fronted open door of the dishwasher, completing the circuit.

Kevin McKeon, 25, was on his way to his Taunton, Somerset, home after a night out in 2003 when he dropped his mobile phone and it skidded down a drain. Kevin lifted the grate, knelt down and leaned over, but lost his footing and fell head-first into 6ft of water, drowning in the process.

Sheffield council gardener Gary Knight poured 250ml of the poisonous weedkiller Paraquat into a dark plastic drinks bottle at the city council depot where he worked in 2005, intending to use it on a friend's patio. Confusion ensued as it was subsequently passed between four different people before turning up at the home of Mark Langton, 35, after his mother put it in the fridge thinking it was a soft drink. Mark wet his lips with the liquid before spitting it out, but by then it was too late to save him. Internal damage caused by the weedkiller is both inevitable and irreversible, and he was slowly poisoned, dying three weeks later.

It was no laughing matter when Gary Ashbrook, 31, was found dead with a condom over his head after experimenting with nitrous oxide, otherwise known as laughing gas. Nine empty canisters of the gas, which is used for sexual gratification as it creates feelings of euphoria, were found next to his body in his Newhaven, Sussex, home in 2007. It wasn't the gas that killed the HIV-ridden homosexual; it was suffocation from wearing the condom.

American tourist Robert Giles, 53, was so excited taking pornographic photographs of a 21-year-old woman in the Philippines in 2001 that he suffered fatal cardiac arrest.

A Berlin train driver was killed in 2007 when he fell out of his locomotive after opening his door to urinate whilst the train was moving. German authorities found the driver's body with his trousers open by the side of tracks several hundred metres away from the train. The train was travelling at 70mph at the time.

55-year-old Earl F. Ellwanger Jr shot himself in 2007 while trying to disprove a point raised in an episode of the true-crime series *Forensic Files*. Ellwanger, of Fall River County, South Dakota, was trying to show to friends that, contrary to what was noted in the episode, a person can physically manage to shoot themselves in the stomach. He was unaware that the shotgun he used to practice his demonstration was loaded.

Rosa Vela, a 22-year-old from a village in Peru, died in 1987 from septicaemia caused by a rusty padlock on a homemade leather chastity belt that her husband made her wear while he was away on a business trip.

Milkman Christopher Harris, 47, died after a sex experiment involving a Russian biological warfare mask went horribly wrong. The divorcee (wonder why…), from Newport, Wales, died in 2007 after running tubes from the hooded mask to a bottle of chloroform. Unfortunately, he inhaled too much and suffered an overdose.

Bondage lover Simon Burley, 38, of Grimsby, North Lincolnshire, put a noose around his neck while his lover, Elizabeth Hallam, pretended to be a neo-Nazi hangman. However, he gave her a blunt knife which couldn't cut him down before he was strangled to death in 2006. Burley had a frankly weird obsession of women being hanged.

Frank Burton, of Horndean, Hampshire, was found dead in 2004, two months after indulging in an autoerotic sex game. He choked to death by gagging himself with a rubber bathing cap and was found with a length of string tied around his genitals. Burton was a sprightly 85 years old, proving you're never too old for sexual perversion.

Joseph Stoyer, 51, stepped out of his front door in Long Island, New York, in 2002, holding his coffee mug. He tripped and fell onto one of the broken mug's ceramic shards, which entered his carotid artery, and he bled to death.

Sado-masochist MacMillan Von Albrecht, 59, accidentally caught his death on video while using a bizarre noose and pulley system for autoerotic sex. He took twelve agonizing hours to die at his home in Battersea, south London, in 2004. He was found in a specially equipped dungeon, surrounded by whips, chains, rubber wear and gas masks. A video tape showed him pulling a noose around his neck, with the cord suspended from pulleys and a urine-filled sweet jar acting as a counterweight.

Mavril Jones choked to death on carbon monoxide fumes from her coal fire in 2003 after a jackdaw built a 3ft-deep nest in her chimney. The 85-year-old widow, who lived near Swansea, had put wire over the chimney, but it had either been blown away or been removed by the birds. She was found in her front room with her devoted dog, who survived, alongside her, so at least it's a happy ending.

Gareth Duggan, 24, was killed in 2003 when he fell at his home in Neath, south Wales. He lay dead for two days at the foot of the stairs while his family stepped over him because they thought it was a "wind-up".

39-year-old brick layer Herminio Rivero Couceiro abducted a hen in Orense, Spain, in 1990 and clambered down a riverbank to consummate his passion. However, Herminio's thrusts were hard enough to dislodge a nearby boulder, crushing both him and the chicken to death.

Factory worker George Kenyon, 25, died after being dragged headfirst into a shredding machine in Haslingden, Lancashire, in 1988. He was diced and sliced after his overalls became caught in the cutter, and was dead before anyone could turn it off.

While performing a wedding rehearsal in Hurworth, near Darlington, in 2001, the stress brought on an acute migraine for 27-year-old Penny Taylor, which killed her.

An Iraqi football player was shot dead in 2009 by a spectator as he was about to score a last-minute equalizer. The shooting happened in the dying embers of a match between two local rivals in the city of Hilla. A striker from the Buhairat amateur team was facing only the goalie when a Sinjar supporter pulled out his gun and shot the striker in the head.

Pensioner Florence Ledwidge, 87, only went to see her doctor in 2007 about recurring nosebleeds, but as the doctor swung his chair around after the examination, he accidentally kicked her in the leg. Although Florence, from Roehampton, southwest London, initially seemed fine, her leg soon became bruised, and she underwent an operation to drain it. But following a series of complications following the operation, she died from heart failure.

A 95-year-old pensioner was crushed beneath her hospital bed at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary in 2003 after accidentally triggering a release mechanism when she fell out, causing the bed to collapse on her and causing fatal head injuries.

A woman who walked away unharmed after her car overturned was fatally injured minutes later when a junior firefighter on his way to the accident lost control of his car. Evelyn Houser, 70, was driving on a highway outside Pittsburgh in 1992 when her car struck an embankment, overturned and slid to a stop. Minutes later, as she stood near a guardrail while state police investigated the accident, she was hit by the fire truck and died hours later at hospital.

A tiny 2mm cut was enough to finish off welfare officer Robert Chrimes, 45. He nicked his thumb on chicken wire while building a patio at his home in Wiltshire in 2004. After suffering from diarrhoea and a high temperature, he was diagnosed with the flesh-eating bug necrotizing fasciitis and underwent surgery, where most of the skin on his left was removed, along with his deltoid, bicep and tricep muscles. Despite this, he died later that day from multiple-organ failure caused by the bug. In 2008, former cleaner Denise Bell, 69, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, died from necrotizing fasciitis after cutting her finger on a tin. Days after the accident, which she initially thought nothing of, she was admitted to hospital with "extensive skin discoloration around her right hip to right shoulder in keeping with necrotizing fasciitis". She died a few days later after her next of kin declined plastic surgery, deciding she would not have wanted the ordeal.

Dennis Keoghoe, 72, of Minehead, Somerset, wanted to make up to his wife for all the money he'd spent on prostitutes when he was younger, so he did nine paper-rounds a week. Eventually he became so exhausted that, in 1993, he killed himself by drinking a bottle of whisky and taking a hundred painkillers.

Royal Navy engineer Derek Guy had a trivial argument with his wife over a slice of toast and marmalade at their home in Market Harborough in 1988. He thereupon ran into the road, lay down and waited for a car to run over him, which happened a few minutes later.

Ramonito Yuson, a 37-year-old taxi driver from Manila in the Philippines, was fatally electrocuted in 2001 when he urinated against a lamppost when he was cut short whilst out driving. An exposed live wire at the base allowed electricity from the lamppost to arc along the stream of his urine and shock him.

In 1992, Dorothy Johnson's two-year-old great-grandson offered her a jelly sweet before taking off his hat to show her his new, extremely short haircut. The 72-year-old widow from Birmingham found this so hilarious that she burst into uncontrollable laughter and choked to death on the sweet.

A Mexican jail warden fell to his death in 1999 while spying on couples during their conjugal visits, crashing next to a prisoner and his wife having sex. Raul Zarate Diaz, prison warden in Tapachula, on Mexico's southern border with Guatemala, fell 23ft to his death after tripping on a skylight looking over the conjugal visits section. The warden had with him binoculars and a pornographic magazine. The prisoner who was interrupted attempted to start a riot, but the intent was squelched by prison security.

During a particularly cold winter in 1981, police in the Bronx were called to the unheated apartment of 47-year-old Jessie Smalls. When they broke down the door of her home in the Morris Heights district, they found Ms Smalls entombed in a block of ice. A pipe had burst, flooding her apartment. As the water froze it had already entombed her, forcing the police to use pickaxes to chip away at the ice to free her frozen form.

Roger Wallace, a 60-year-old radio-control plane fanatic from Arizona, died at the Pima County Fairgrounds in 2001. He turned into the sun and lost sight of his 3kg plane with a 1.5m wingspan. It then flew into him at a speed of nearly 50kph.

In 1991, Yooket Paen, a 57-year-old peasant farmer from Angthong, Thailand, met her end while making her way across her cow enclosure. She slipped in the mud and dung, and as she fell, threw her hands out to break the fall, only to grasp a live wire powering an electric fence. The next day, her sister, Yooket Pan, 52, was showing neighbours how the accident occurred when she slipped in the mud and dung, and as she fell, threw her hands out to break the fall, only to grasp a live wire powering an electric fence.

Einner Dahl, a 54-year-old hunter from Canada, killed a buck dear in 1994 while hunting in Saskatchewan. As he tried to move his kill, an antler pierced his leg and hit an artery, causing him to bleed to death before he could summon help.

To increase the catch of fish from Fox Lake in Illinois in 1998, Daniel Wyman and an unnamed buddy decided to throw fireworks into the water. Their chosen weapon against marine life was a bunch of illegally imported M-250s. All was going well for the anglers until a sudden gust of wind blew their rubber boat directly onto one of the recently thrown M-250s. As it exploded directly underneath them, it holed their craft. While his buddy managed to swim the 100 metres to shore, 28-year-old Wyman, who couldn't swim, drowned.

When Larry Slusher of Arjay, Kentucky, asked his best friend to shoot a beer can off the top of his head with a gun in 1998, the friend duly obliged. Predictably, the friend, Silas Caldwell, wasn't an adept shot and ended up shooting 47-year-old Slusher in the head, killing him.

After casting a "bulletproof" spell over two men in 1998, James Numeni, a traditional herbalist "witchdoctor" from the central Liberian town of Gbarnga, shot and killed his two patients in a test to see if his incantation had worked. He was arrested and charged with murder. The two victims were shot several times in the face and chest. The same fate occurred to Aleobiga Aberima, from Lambu

village in north-eastern Ghana, in 2001. Aberima and fifteen other friends asked their local witchdoctor to make them invincible to bullets. After smearing his body with a concoction of herbs every day for two weeks, Aberima volunteered to be shot to check if the spell had worked. Another villager fetched a rifle, and Aberima died instantly from the bullet wound. The witchdoctor was brutally beaten up until a village elder rescued him.

In 1998, 48-year-old Pascal Gbah of the Cote d'Ivoire army died when he was shot by his own service revolver. The gun had been fired by the 20-year-old son of magician Andre Gondo, who was testing a magic belt his father had made for Colonel Gbah to protect him from bullets. After the alleged protective powers of the girdle failed to protect Gbah, Gondo argued to police that the belt had failed because the Colonel hadn't abstained from sex for a sufficient period before donning the belt.

Barry McCabe, a real estate agent from Miami, Florida, choked to death on a nine-volt battery in 1986 as he licked the electric terminals.

A 21-year-old student teacher, Pang Yang, hid in the home of her fiancé Benjamin Kult in their Iowa home in 2002, made noises to attract his attention, and then burst out of a wardrobe when he came to investigate. Unfortunately, he thought she was a burglar and shot her dead with his handgun.

A resident of Sao Paulo, Brazil, decided he did not need professional help or special protective gear to remove a beehive from his orange tree in 2002, just clear plastic bags over his arms and head to protect him from potential stings. He forgot to cut any holes in the bag over his head and suffocated.

The Belgian Air Force took part in a humanitarian relief effort in Sudan in 1995 by dropping crates of food to starving villagers in remote locations. However, in an incident which the Air Force blamed on "tall grass", one crate scored a direct hit on a hut, killing three men.

Professional gardener Gabriel Gonzalez-Ferrer was cleaning trees at a property in Tustin, California, in 2007. He was feeding branches into a mobile mulcher when he became caught up and dragged into its blades. Gabriel's cries for help were not heard by his colleagues, as they were wearing protective equipment to protect their ears from loud noises.

Paul G. Thomas, the 47-year-old co-owner of a textiles company in Thompson, Connecticut, died in 1987 when he was wound into a giant spool of wool. He got

caught up in the spooling machine and when his body was discovered, he had been suffocated behind hundreds of metres of yarn.

Deiter Lorz, a 53-year-old photographer, was discovered in his Stuttgart apartment in 1985 with homemade electrodes attached to his testicles and a cock-gag in his mouth. Police described his death as "an unusual but self-inflicted accident".

The body of Terrence Simmonds, a 47-year-old from Oxford, was discovered in 2000 in a cocoon made of plastic bin liners. In a solo sex game, he had used a vacuum cleaner to suck all the air out of the bags but ended up suffocating.

In 1986, a woman was found in Dayton, Ohio, naked and trapped under the corpse of her lover. The couple had been making love in her car, which was parked on the upper storey of a garage. During the sex, he died, collapsing on her and pinning her to the back seat of the car. By the time she was discovered under his decomposing body, she was suffering so badly from the effects of dehydration and hypothermia that she too died within hours of her release.

Texan Steven Brasher received a life prison sentence in 2002 for the fatal shooting of his 39-year-old friend, Willie Lawson. What had Willie done to provoke such a fate? Explained Brasher: "There was only two beers left, so I took one, and I told Willie not to take my last beer." Willie fatally ignored this request.

A giant flower parasol was sent into the air in 1998 by a freak gust of wind measuring 130kph. Unfortunately for 83-year-old Cardiff resident Selena Andrews, when it came down, it struck her on the head, killing her instantly.

In 1997, 29-year-old travel writer Stefan Rosengren returned to England after four years touring Asia. He was so depressed by the miserable summer weather that he leapt to his death from the Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol. According to his brother: "He returned from Cambodia and in a short time he became unsettled. At 2am on July 2 he said he didn't enjoy the weather. The rain in June got to him. He said he didn't like it here, meaning England. At 9am we found that he had gone. We were told by police that he had fallen from the suspension bridge."

A man died when he slipped and fell under the wheels of a lorry at a novelty tug-of-war event at a pub fun day. Graham Hamlett, 57, was crushed at the Black Swan, in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, as a tug-of-war team pitted their strength against the truck in 1997.

47-year-old John Vanderstam, of Birmingham, killed himself in 1998 after "going through hell" when noisy neighbours moved in next door to the house he shared with his father.

In 1999, famed TV entertainer Rod Hull climbed onto the roof of his bungalow in Winchelsea to adjust the television aerial so he could watch a football match. He slipped and fell through an adjoining greenhouse, killing the 63-year-old from a severe skull fracture and chest injuries. Rod was famous for rarely appearing without Emu, his arm-length puppet. Maybe he should have taken the hint that emus can't fly.

Michael Warner, 58, of Brazoria County, Texas, died in 2004 after receiving an enema full of sherry wine. An inquest showed that Warner had a blood-alcohol level of .47 – more than five times the legal limit – when he died. His wife was initially charged in connection to his death by alcohol poisoning, but these charges were dropped as full details of Warner's fondness for booze enemas came out.

E. Frenkel, a Soviet psychic from the city of Astrakhan, claimed that he possessed the power to stop vehicles such as cars, bikes and trams in its tracks with his "amazing psychic-biological powers". In 1989, he sought to impress even more people by attempting to stop a train. The engineer of the train saw Frenkel step onto the tracks with his arms raised, his head lowered, and his body tensed. A Soviet newspaper report concluded: "Emergency braking failed to help. A tragedy occurred."

Two fishermen bled to death in Papua New Guinea in 1999 when their penises were bitten off by fish in the River Sepik. Is it thought the fish were able to detect the urine streams of their victims, allowing them to home in on their genitals, which were chomped off with razor-sharp teeth.

In 1990, hunter Ali Asghar Ahani attempted to capture a snake near the Iranian city of Tehran by pressing the butt of his shotgun down behind its head to pin it to the ground. According to Ahani's friend, the snake coiled around the butt of the gun, thrashed, and its tail caught and pulled the trigger, shooting Ahani in the head.

James Berry, 42, of Watford, became furious in 2005 when he discovered that his car had been clamped and he would have to pay £240 to get it removed. He was so furious that he kicked the clamp. His burst of anger caused an injury to his foot that sent a blood clot off into his body that killed him three days later.

Immediately after his 1979 marriage at Council Bluffs, Iowa, 23-year-old Greg Cundiff was stricken by nerves and heat. He hit his head on the altar steps and never regained consciousness.

Max Hoffmann, the groom at a wedding in Traunreut, Bavaria, in 1991, went berserk when his camera failed to work, and gave his father a black eye. His mother then stabbed her son to death with a kitchen knife in front of the bride and forty wedding guests.

Near Perth, Australia, in 1991, drug addict Joseph Taylor, 22, got fed up with the coughing of his brother Dale, 16. So fed up, in fact, that he locked him in the boot of his car, doused it with petrol, set it on fire and burned him to death. "I could hear my brother yelling and screaming but he'd just coughed one time too many," Taylor told police.

Shopkeeper Luigi D'Alessio, 47, shot his doctor dead in Foggia, Italy, in 1993 when the doctor said he couldn't cure his cold.

Psychiatrist Oscar Dominguez, 45, shot dead a woman patient in his office in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1993 as she told him about her sex life. As the trial he explained "I couldn't take those nutcases anymore."

A 61-year-old man arrested in the stabbing death of his wife told a policeman he was incensed at the way she placed their food in the refrigerator. Joseph Fallar Sr. was arrested in 1992 for the slaying of his 50-year-old wife, Florene, who police said had been stabbed 219 times. "He said she would stack the refrigerator full of vegetables, hiding the milk, and he wasn't going to take that anymore," said a patrolman.

In Germany, Walter Jeurgens, 19, was served up eggs at every meal by his new wife Elfreide, 18. He got so fed up with it that he left home. When he decided to return in 1990, Elfreide immediately fried up some eggs for him. He shot her dead, remarking after his arrest "I used to like eggs."

In St Louis, Missouri, in 1986, Nathan Hicks, 35, became enraged when his younger brother Herbert used six rolls of toilet paper in two days. There were still two rolls left in the carton, but Nathan shot Herbert in the chest with a .22 rifle.

A man from Bristol depressed by baldness arranged for a friend to kill him in 1989 after an operation on his testicles failed to stop his hair loss. Barry Palmer, 50, had "picked up a notion that if he had a surgical operation on his testicles, that would

stop his hair falling out." Desperate over the failure of the treatment, Palmer arranged for Brett Cooper, 17, to smother him to death after giving him tablets to make him drowsy. Palmer was found dead in his garage.

Joe Boothroyd, 71, of Chichester, West Sussex, killed himself in 1987 by drilling a hole in his heart because he could no longer bear the pain of the heart disease angina.

A cuckolded husband, brandishing a revolver and using extra-strong glue for his revenge, cemented his wife's hands to her lover's penis in 1986, killing the man. The lovers, from Sao Paulo, Brazil, underwent delicate surgery to separate them, but the interloper died several days later from the toxic chemicals absorbed through the porous membranes of his penis.

Salvatore Romano, 65, from Agrigento, Sicily, decided that his daughter's fiancé was too ugly for her. So when 30-year-old Calogero Lumia turned up at his house in 1993, Romano opened the door and shot him with a pistol.

Knife in hand, Chen Bohong of Liuzhou, China, was slaughtering his pig in 1987 when taxman Sun Taichang turned up and presented him with a £1 pig-tax bill. Outraged, Chen decided to slaughter the taxman instead. He was duly executed for his crime.

Mountaineer Gerald Hommel, a veteran of six Everest expeditions, was changing a lightbulb in the kitchen of his home in Nantes, France, in 1993 when he fell off the ladder. He cracked his head on the sink and died.

An unnamed man of 56 tricked his way into a house in Alicante, Spain, in 1991, by claiming to be a sewing machine repairer. Once inside, he grabbed about £80 and ran off. As the woman chased him, he tripped, swallowed his false teeth, and choked to death.

Shop manager Claude Jules, 53, of Abbeville, France, was so eager to try on his new toupee in 1992 that he got the special glue out in his car and donned the wig there and then. He sat back to admire his handiwork and took out a cigarette. Unfortunately glue fumes were ignited when he tried to light it, turning the car into a fireball.

Richard Fresquez, 35, from Austin, Texas, became entangled in a garden hose and strangled himself while trying to get free. He was found in a field behind a food plant in 1983 with the hose wrapped round his waist and chest.

Farm worker Edward Russell was found unconscious beside his tractor in Broadreed Farm in Hampshire in 1975, completely naked except for his shoes and socks. The 'power take-off gear' was thought to have injured him and stripped him of his clothes. He died in hospital from his injuries.

Tyrone Mitchell was cleaning large machinery at a food plant in Selma, Alabama, in 1993 and was inside a giant meat-grinder when it started up unexpectedly and minced him to death.

Mike Stewart, 31, president of the Auto Convoy Company, Dallas, Texas, was filming a movie about the traffic dangers of low-level bridges in 1983 when the truck he was standing on passed under a suburban bridge and killed him.

Teenage hockey player Timothy Curnow, 16, died during a game in Penzance, Cornwall, in 1990 after another player's stick brushed his head and may have damaged a part of the brain which controlled his heartbeat.

In the Ukraine, a funeral wake turned to drunken revelry and then disaster in 1988. The funeral, in the village of Zabolotye, was for a teacher who had died of poisoning after drinking black market industrial spirit. Somehow, it was seen as a good idea to serve the exact same rotgut at the wake, with the result that ten guests died and eighty had to be taken to hospital.

A priest from Albuquerque was found dead in an adult bookstore in Minneapolis in 1988. Father Eugene Schwartzenberger, 53, had just enjoyed a few of the in-store movies when he slipped and hit his head on the way up a flight of stairs. The Catholic cleric died hours later from swelling of the brain.

Charles Millbank, 25, crashed into an electricity pole on the A127 near Brentwood, Essex, in 1993. The car plunged over an embankment, but he escaped unhurt. As he scrambled back up the slope, he touched the 11,000-volt cable trailing across the grass and was killed instantly.

In 1991, 65-year-old Chan Wai-fong set up a small shrine at her son's home in Hong Kong to give thanks to the gods for her daughter's lucky escape from a road accident. As she was praying in the street outside the apartment block, she was killed by a falling bag of cement.

Jenny Rider, 41, poured petrol over her clothes and set it alight in 2000. As it flared, she changed her mind and plunged into a river in New Norfolk, Tasmania,

to douse the flames. She then knocked herself unconscious on a rock and drowned.

A 71-year-old farmer in Dawson Creek, British Columbia, was severely injured in 2000 when he was pinned by his pickup truck after he got out to unlock a gate. He died when the ambulance rushing him to hospital in Fort St John was hit by a pickup truck.

In Grahamstown [now Makhanda], South Africa, a man asked police to watch his house while he was out of town, saying he would be back on 12th January 1992. The police became suspicious on 30th December 1991 when they saw lights being switched on and off in the supposedly empty house. Suspecting a burglar, an officer went to the back door of the house and, when a door suddenly opened, let loose with his gun…killing the homeowner, who had returned early and forgotten to notify the police.

Philip Hodges, 36, was cutting a yew hedge at Fownhope, near Hereford, in 1992 when he slipped on a wet, grassy bank and cut the jugular vein in his neck with the shears. He bled to death before an ambulance arrived.

Annoyed that local teenagers occasionally broke in and stole his marijuana plants growing in his garage, Kenneth Sutherland, 38, rigged a booby trap by nailing a shotgun to a chair, and ran the wire from the trigger to an outer screen door, so the gun would go off if the door was opened. One day in 1993, he seemingly forgot his own trap. The shotgun blasted him in the thigh, and though the Sumpter Township, Michigan, resident was able to drag himself 60ft to the house and dial the emergency services, he was then unable to say anything. He bled to death before help could arrive.

A man was knocked down by a car in New York in 1977 but got up uninjured. A bystander told him to lie down in front of the car again and pretend he was hurt so he could collect some insurance money. He did so, and the car promptly rolled forward and crushed him to death.

During a row with his wife in 1993, Christopher Daley, 37, of Stanford-in-the-Vale, Oxon, used a nail gun to shoot a two-inch bolt into his brain.

In 1993 Alfredo Rosales pegged out from heart and respiratory problems after a monster pig-out in La Plata, 40 miles from Buenos Aires, Argentina. The 658lb man ate an entire roast sucking pig at one sitting.

Leslie Merry, 56, died in 1989 after being hit by a turnip that was thrown from a passing car. The attack apparently was carried out by a gang who tossed vegetables at random at passers-by. Another man suffered stomach injuries earlier that year after being hit by a cabbage, police said. For Merry, the turnip broke a rib and ruptured his spleen, and he died nine days later.

Four boys in the western Algerian city of Maghnia, aged from eight to fifteen, died shortly after eating soup in 1992. Their mother had inadvertently brought home a poisonous snake hidden among vegetables which she put in the family refrigerator. When she took them out, the snake, seeking warmth, slithered into the soup pot and discharged its venom.

In Montana, a driver lost control of his lorry in 1979 when a fly flew into his mouth and bringing on a choking fit. The lorry crashed, killing his wife who was in the cab with him.

In 1991, Clarence Lewis, 49, was at home babysitting his grandchildren in LaPlace, Louisiana. He got so fed up with watching children's programmes on the television that he pulled out a .45 pistol from under the cushion of his armchair and decided he was going to shoot out the screen. His aim being less than perfect, Lewis missed the television set entirely and shot his wife Sara straight through the heart, killing her instantly.

A dispute broke out in 1986 between two brothers-in-law in Vallefiorita, Italy, about who was entitled to the last free space in the family tomb. Things soon became so heated that one man stabbed the other to death and, on a first-come first-served basis, did himself out of the vacancy.

Three US Navy airmen died in a bizarre aerial mooning incident in 1995. The two pilots and a navigator were flying alongside a second warplane when they stripped off all their clothes and pressed their backsides to the cockpit canopy as a joke. However, they also took off their oxygen masks, without which they rapidly lost consciousness, leaving their aircraft to plunge to the ground and killing everyone aboard.

Chef Juan Ruiz was stabbed through the heart with uncooked spaghetti strands in 1994 when 150mph winds hit his restaurant in Mexico City.

Salesman Rico Vogt choked to death in Pisa, Italy, in 1996 when his tie got tangled round the blades of a food mixer he was demonstrating to a crowd in a shopping centre.

Greenkeeper Ronnie Mitchell, who worked at Bradley Hall golf club near Elland, West Yorkshire, fell afoul of a giant petrol-driven lawn mower. His jacket caught round the axle and dragged him to death in 1997, trapping him between a wheel and one of the huge cutting arms.

In Poland, Czeslaw B., 60, who was so afraid of burglars that he filled his house with deadly booby traps, fell victim to his own safeguards. He was found in 1997 shot dead outside his garage, killed by two home-made guns mounted on the garage doors. Explosives experts, moving cautiously through his house in Kosianka-Trojanowka village, found eight similar traps by the front door, in rooms and in the attic, each device being fitted with a discreet off-switch, and 28 more booby traps in the house in various stages of construction.

In 1994, in Bucharest, Romania, Florian Iorga, 42, and his son Aurel, 16, were electrocuted by a booby trap they had set up to protect their onion patch. Hearing noises in the night, they ran out to investigate, and tripped over the cables wired to the mains.

David Jenkins, 70, overbalanced while cutting the hedge behind his Brigg, South Humberside, house in 1994. He fell backwards off his ladder and lost control of the power hedge trimmer, which almost severed his head.

A Chelmsford, Essex, landlord with "a very limited interest in personal hygiene" died in 1987 when his three lodgers decided to give him a bath because he was "dirty and smelly". Raymond Davies, 52, was frog-marched to his bathroom, undressed and plunged into a bath of cold water. The shock killed him. After Davies died, his lodgers left him for six days and carried on drinking in their filthy and unkempt house. All the way back in 1903, a man from Missouri named Patrick Burke also died from taking his first bath in years; more specifically, Burke died from "injuries sustained from scrubbing, a chill caught while wet, and shock at being clean".

In 1937, when she was six, Rolande Geneve planted an oak in her garden in Isere, France. Sixty years later, it fell over and killed her.

Andrew Thornton, 37, received a fatal shock as he turned on the shower at his home in Banbury, Oxfordshire, in 1997. A small screw used to tighten a loose floorboard on the landing outside the bathroom had penetrated wiring for the shower and caused a short circuit.

In Bangkok, Thailand, in 2005, a 28-year-old man, Komkrit Chuchan, was found to have committed suicide by injecting superglue into his nose and mouth, causing him to suffocate to death.

Asa Denny, 68, hanged himself in 1994 when his huge tomato failed to win the top prize at a country fair in Grafton, Australia.

A kinky sex act went wrong when a headmaster died in 1996 while hanging by his neck from a tree dressed in women's clothes. Married Stephen Calvert, 41, was wearing a black petticoat, tights and patent leather shoes when he was found near his home in Liphook, Hampshire.

Holidaymaker Judith Millard, 64, died after being bitten by a flea in Spain. Judith, of Goathurst, near Taunton, Somerset, contracted typhus from the flea bite and died in 1994 after returning from the holiday with her husband on the Costa del Sol.

Lisa Potter, 21, went for a walk at night with her mother, Ann Everitt, in Witham, Essex, in 1995. They came to the Moots Lane railway crossing where Lisa's father had been killed 11 years earlier, and Ann refused to continue. Lisa went and stood on the track and called "Come on, Mum, it's alright." At that moment, a train light appeared, and Lisa was run over and killed.

An unnamed 24-year-old Garfield, New Jersey, man was found dead under the wheels of his car in 1994. It appeared that he had been drinking before he got into the car and started the ignition. He leant out of the car to vomit but instead of leaving the car into neutral, he put it into reverse. When he fell out, taking his foot off the brake, the car ran over his head and neck.

Paul Brownrigg, 16, from Littlehampton, West Sussex, had twice the legal driving limit of alcohol in his blood when, in 1996, he boasted to friends that he could lick the live rail on a railway line near his home. As he leant towards the line a spark leapt from the 750-volt rail, crisping him instantly.

A couple in the Mpumalanga province of South Africa were run over by a train in 2008 whilst making love on a railway line when the train came before they did. The couple ignored the train driver's shouts and continued with their business while he moved the train into the mostly disused station in Kinross town. The man died at the scene and the woman died later in hospital.

Belinda Street, who was walking down the aisle in Adelaide, Australia, as she prepared to get married in 1995, tripped on her flowing gown, fell, and died of a broken neck.

According to the Egyptian government daily *Al-Akhbar*, Mohammad Saeed Shafiq, 40, spent so much time every day crying at the burial site of his parents in Cairo that he ultimately "cried himself to death" in 1997.

When Ronald Eynon, 50, was being treated for breathing difficulties at Prince Philip Hospital in Llanelli, Wales, in 1996, he pulled the blanket over his head, slipped off his oxygen mask, lit a cigarette and went up in flames. During the dash to the burns unit at Swansea's Morriston Hospital, he kept requesting a fag. He died of shock a month later.

Annemarie Jones, a 37-year-old machinist from Birmingham, was taken to Selly Oak hospital with abdominal pains in 1997 and died shortly afterwards. Surgeons found her false tooth and its dental plate, the size of a palm, in her inflamed lower colon; they had failed to spot it on the X-rays. When it had disappeared three months earlier, she thought she had lost it.

Two witchdoctors in Zimbabwe who claimed they could cure AIDS died from the disease in 1989 after having sex with patients they believed they had cured.

Egyptian farm worker Susu Borai Mohammad, 22, accidentally swallowed some ants when she took a swig of water in 1996. She went home and swallowed some insecticide to kill the ants but suffered diarrhoea and convulsions and died after being taken to hospital in the Qena district of Cairo.

Farmer Ismail Ayyildiz told drinking companions in the western Turkish province of Edirne that he would shoot out an aching tooth in 1995, but the DIY dentistry proved fatal. The bullet left his mouth via the top of his head. He was rushed to hospital but died a few hours later.

Golfer David Bailey, 40, of Clondalkin, Co. Dublin, was killed by a rat in 1996 which ran up his trouser leg as he hunted for a lost ball at Caddockstown golf course in Co. Kildare. He startled the animal when he jumped into a ditch at the first hole. It shot up his leg and urinated on him. His golf partners advised him to take a shower immediately, but he laughed off the encounter, saying he had no cuts or bites. He did take a shower four hours later after finishing his round, but by then he had touched his leg and smoked a cigar. Doctors believe that the deadly Weil's disease carried by the rat was passed from his fingers to his mouth. He was

admitted to a Dublin hospital with severe jaundice two weeks later but died in intensive care when his kidneys collapsed.

16-year-old Jeremy T. Brenno slammed his golf club against a bench after making a bad shot at the Kingsboro Golf Club in Gloversville, New York, in 1994. He bled to death after the club's broken shaft snapped back and pierced his pulmonary vein.

Emil Kijek, 79, hit his first hole-in-one of his life at the golf club in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, in 1994, where he had played for thirty years, then jubilantly walked on to the next hole. The excitement, however, proved too much. At the next tee, he approached the ball, rolled his eyes, said "Oh no" then collapsed dead of a heart attack.

In Quinton, Birmingham, builder Seagan Dawe, 61, was working at the top of a ladder in 1992 when his workmate heard him scream "Get off! Get off!" and saw him topple from the ladder and crash to his death. He had been savaged by a squirrel which had popped out of the guttering and bitten him in the cheek.

A paralyzed female patient was being pushed on a trolley into a lift in a Cairo hospital in 1993 when, before the entire trolley was in, the lift descended, slicing the woman in half.

Elizabeth Hall, 52, of Newport, Gwent, walking her powerful cross-bred Collie in 1993, died when it chased another dog and ran her into a children's slide in Abergavenny, rupturing her liver.

Tanya Green, 22, of Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, died in 1993 after having sex with her boyfriend, a week after giving birth to a healthy baby. The post mortem showed that air had been forced into her bloodstream because blood vessels had not closed again after the birth.

A robbery suspect who tried to swallow incriminating evidence choked to death on a $50 bill. The man collapsed in the back seat of a patrol car in Buffalo, New York, in 1995 about an hour after he had been caught attacking a woman in a supermarket parking lot.

A flasher exposing himself to women on the New York subway in 1995 was killed by a train when he forgot to pull up his trousers before running away. He tripped and fell on the track as the train pulled into the station.

Gareth Davies, 31, choked to death in 1995 when a heavy patio door landed on his neck as he attempted to break into the house of a solicitor in Pontyclun, Mid-Glamorgan. He levered open the 12ft by 6ft 'tilt and slide' glass door and tried to prop it open with an iron bar. As he crawled feet-first under the door, it swung back and trapped him by the neck.

Michael Anderson Godwin, 28, who was sentenced to death by electric chair in 1981 for the murder and sexual assault committed in Columbia, South Carolina, three years earlier, managed to get his sentence commuted to life imprisonment when he was found innocent of the sexual assault. In 1989, he was sitting naked on the metal commode in his cell mending the headphones on his TV when he electrocuted himself by biting through a wire. Godwin was found with severe burns on his mouth and tongue and was pronounced dead.

Two Russian policemen shot each other dead in 1997 in a case of mistaken identity while trying to arrest suspected robbers. One group of policemen in the town of Nizhny Novgorod mistook another group for the crooks in the dark after they refused an order to drop their weapons.

In Worthing, West Sussex, in 1992, mentally ill Harry Bush, 71, choked to death on his bath sponge. He had woken in the night feeling peckish in his nursing home and gone to look for something to eat but mistook his sponge for food. He was found dead with two pieces of bitten-off sponge lodged in his throat.

A British tourist died in a freak chain-reaction crash while sitting by the road eating a watermelon in Paphos, Cyprus, in 1994. As Albert Smeaton enjoyed the view, a sheet of metal blew off a passing lorry. The sheet forced a car to swerve and crash into a street sight, which struck Albert in the head and caused fatal injuries. It seems to be a rule of thumb for British tourists in Cyprus to avoid melons in general. Stephen Pepperell fell to his death in 1996 as he tried to throw a melon in to a street litter bin from his second-floor apartment. He lost his balance and plunged from a balcony in the resort of Ayia Napa. He was trying to show off his aim to his brother and two women who were also in the apartment.

Norfolk teenager Kim Whiter, 15, came home from school in 1996 to find that her father Keith had committed suicide by gassing himself in the family car. She rang her mother Jacqueline, who immediately left Felixstowe to comfort her daughter. During the trip, the BMW in which she was a passenger hit a tree and burst into flames, killing her too. On the bright side, if Kim entered *Britain's Got Talent*, she'd be an odds-on winner.

A 32-year-old German died when a camp-site lavatory exploded as he tried to light a cigarette, blasting him through a closed window. Police in Montabaur, Rhineland-Palatinate, said the 1998 explosion appeared to have been caused by leaking gas from the septic tank or a defective natural gas pipe.

Karate brown belt and Thai boxing enthusiast Scott Kell, 23, lost his balance doing high kicks in his apartment in Salford, Greater Manchester, in 1993 and plunged to his death through an open window on the 10th floor of a tower block.

A farmer was killed in 1994 when a giant pumpkin he grew for a local competition rolled off his truck and fell on him, piercing his rib cage. Jerry Kulpin, 52, died instantly, authorities in Christchurch, New Zealand, said, and the 4-foot-wide, 280lb pumpkin was smashed to bits in the fall.

A grandad was crushed to death in 1996 when a lorry laden with twenty tons of pork chops toppled on to his car. The accident which killed 61-year-old George Pearce happened as the truck left docks near his home in Immingham, East Yorkshire. Fire crews had to unload the joints of meat by hand to reach Pearce, but he was declared dead at the scene.

Divine justice was served to David Keeton, 29, who died near Tustin, California, in 1995 after his car plunged down an embankment. Witnesses said Keeton had been swerving all over the road to keep the car behind him from passing.

A 28-year-old Iranian bridegroom died in 2001 when he licked honey from his bride's finger during their marriage ceremony in the city of Qazvin and choked to death on one of her false nails. Iranian couples lick honey from each other's fingers when they get married so that their life together starts sweetly.

George Kafatos, a customer in a crowded restaurant in Athens, Greece, was killed in 2001 by a flying lamb chop when an oven exploded. Five other diners were hurt.

James Byrne, 84, was killed when he was hit by a flying horseshoe as he drove along a country lane outside Callan, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland, in 2007. A local farmer had stretched a white tape across the lane to stop the cattle he was herding from wandering off. One end of the tape had been attached to a horseshoe, which was then secured to the branch of an overhanging tree. Byrne was unaware of the obstruction in his path. The fabric stretched as it encountered the front grille of his own Datsun. Because of the pressure, the horseshoe freed itself from the bent branch, flew towards the car, smashed through the side window and hit Mr Byrne on the temple.

In 2010, Tamsen Lucius, 36, impaled himself on his own spear while chasing wild boar. The hunter from Zimbabwe climbed a tree to get a better spear-throwing angle but lost his footing and impaled himself through the chest.

In 2003, Kieran Duggal, 53, leant forward to unlock his front door with a key tied around his neck. He slipped and became tangled, accidentally throttling himself. He was found dead outside his home in Balham, southwest London.

Rodney Ernest Oberg, a 49-year-old inmate at Kingman Prison, Arizona, died from head injuries in 2002 when he slipped on faeces he had recently evacuated in his cell and banged his head on the floor. Oberg had been arrested the previous week for trespassing.

Suzanne Cornwall, 18, died after her scarf got caught in a go-kart engine and strangled her at Cambridgeshire Raceway at an after-hours session with friends in 2009.

Doctor Michelle Ferrari-Gegerson, 37, died when her electric neck machine caught on her necklace and strangled her in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on Christmas Eve 2010.

A 47-year-old woman in the Spanish town of Rivero de Posedas was strangled to death by her scarf in 2007 after it got stuck in a tumble dryer. She had put a load of washing in the machine and switched it on without realizing the end of her scarf was trapped inside.

Flatulent parrots killed an animal lover who collapsed and died in Tegelen, the Netherlands, in 2003. The victim, whose double-glazed house reeked of expelled wind from dozens of pet birds, had called an ambulance, saying he felt ill – but died before paramedics arrived. The police blamed a combination of the parrots' flatulence and ammonia from their droppings.

German tourist Hermann Roag somehow survived a 2000 fall from the window of his 8th floor hotel room in Lausanne, Switzerland, with no more than a broken ankle. But on the way to hospital, he fell out of the ambulance and died under the wheels of a passing bus.

A cheerful man killed himself in 2000 because he was extremely happy. Police in Syria said that Najib Saddi, 35, the boss of a fish firm, left a suicide note explaining that he was "perfectly happy" but was afraid of "future unhappiness".

A Romanian man who wanted to kill himself in 2000 died of a heart attack before being able to hang himself from a rope he had tied to the ceiling. Iosif Capota wrote farewell notes, then locked himself in a hotel room in Calimanesti. The rope was hanging nearby.

Mouv Nget, a 36-year-old from the Sampov Loun district in Cambodia, became angry when fellow revellers at a party in 2005 accused him of being a ghost and not a real man. He left the party and returned with a stick and then a knife. After being thrown out both times, he went home and returned with a hand grenade to prove he was alive, but the grenade accidentally blew up in his hand, killing him and seriously wounding five others. Police chief Peng Sothy commented: "I mean, what can you say? He was drunk. He obviously was not thinking."

Welder Xiao Jinpeng was working at an ore dressing plant in Jintu county in China in 2007 when a Motorola cell phone in his chest pocket exploded, breaking some of his ribs, and his heart was pierced by fragments of bone. He died at a local hospital. A government inquiry said the phone's lithium battery had exploded due to heat at the mill where he was working.

A 55-year-old man in Taiwan died in 2005 after drinking a popular soft drink that had been laced with cyanide, even though it was clearly labelled: "I am poisonous. Please do not drink." The victim assumed that it was a new advertising slogan.

A chemistry student from Ukraine was killed by exploding chewing gum in 2009. Vladimir Likhonos, 25, a student at a regional branch of the Kiev Polytechnic Institute, was working at a computer in his parents' house in Konotop when relatives heard "a loud pop" and rushed into his room. They discovered that the lower half of his face had been blown off. It transpired that Likhonos had a habit of dipping his chewing gum in citric acid to prolong the taste. On the table, police found both citric acid and about 100g of a similar-looking unidentified substance, believed to be some kind of explosive. Investigators believe he confused the packets and put the gum covered with explosive material into his mouth.

A man accused of killing his brother with an axe in the village of Isseluku, southern Nigeria, in 2006 told police investigators he actually attacked a goat, which was only later magically transformed into his sibling's corpse.

When a bat flew into a house in East Mead Township, Pennsylvania, in 2005, DJ Delancey tried to whack it with a 3lb sledgehammer. As he swung the hammer

round, he accidentally landed a fatal blow on the head of his father-in-law, Francis V. Mercier, 66, who was standing behind him.

Katie Dagley, 19, was killed by a slug or snail. She was driving home from work in 2010 when her Ford Ka collided with a Fiat on a single-lane bridge in Alvecote, near Tamworth, West Midlands. She died at the scene. An investigation found that traffic lights controlling access to the bridge had malfunctioned twenty minutes before the crash when a slug or snail left a trail of slime across a circuit board. This caused a short-circuit and jammed the lights on green at both ends of the bridge.

Abdel-Nasser Nuredeen, from a working-class district in Cairo, Egypt, lost his temper with his wife, Zeinab, when she refused to make him a cup of tea because she was too busy watching the 1999 solar eclipse. He strangled her in the ensuing quarrel. When he discovered that his wife was limp and lifeless, he carried her to a nearby heart institute, but doctors told him she was dead.

As Ernest Comegys, 70, watched the 1996 Republican National Convention in his Dallas, Texas, home, he became enraged when Senator Bob Dole received the presidential nomination. After viewing the proceedings he retrieved a handgun from his bedroom and returned to the living room where he repeatedly shot his cousin Elbert James, 70, killing him. He also wounded his stepdaughter, and then killed himself with a shot to the head. Dole lost the election to the Democrat's Bill Clinton.

An Egyptian in his 80s murdered his wife in 2005 when she refused to add an extra spoonful of sugar to his tea. Hassan Ahmed Mohammed, from the Nile city of Qena, electrocuted Ansaf Amin Yusef and chopped up her body when their forty years of matrimony turned sour.

A man of 84 confessed to killing his wife in 2001 because she made him a "disgusting" cup of coffee. He smashed the cup on the floor after taking a few sips, then hit his wife with a hammer. The 72-year-old woman's body was found by a neighbour in Bari, Italy.

Paolo Fasano, 71, from Alessandria in northern Italy, killed his 74-year-old wife Piera Ecanvre for having the television volume turned up too loud as she watched a music festival in 1999. He hit her with the iron from the ironing board and then strangled her with a tie from the wardrobe. Afterwards, according to Paolo, "I didn't know what to do. I sat down next to her in front of the television but I turned the volume down." Due to his age and mental instability, he was sent to a psychiatric hospital.

In 1997, 75-year-old Wong Fai, of Hong Kong, began yelling at 76-year-old Cheung Tat-kwong to stop scratching his buttocks. After the insult, the elderly men, who had shared a tiny room in a housing estate for eight years, began to argue. The quarrel turned violent, and Cheung struck Wong over the head with a pole, killing him. Cheung served only eight months in jail as the judge did not wish to see the elder in jail for any longer.

Filipino labourer Randy Cruz killed his neighbour Rogelio Lopez in 2002 over who had the more famous surname. The two men were seen arguing about their surnames as they walked down a Manila street. At the height of the argument, Cruz, 27, repeatedly stabbed Lopez with a knife.

A Dutch woman on her way to a 2005 meeting about the dangers of objects kelp on balconies was killed by a flowerpot that fell from a sixth-floor balcony. The 65-year-old was due to meet a group of fellow residents in Den Bosch, including the owner of the flowerpot.

A Bible weighing about 3lb was accidentally knocked off a hotel's 12th floor balcony in Lins, Brazil. It landed on the head of 71-year-old Charles Maurois, a French tourist sunbathing below, and killed him. Insurers claimed it was an act of God.

A 24-year-old man died in southern Yucatan state, Mexico, in 2003 after reportedly allowing himself to be used as a human piñata. To indulge his two younger siblings, Sebastian Cahum Pech allowed them to tie his hands and feet, balance him on a beam and swing at him with sticks. Cahum Pech, who was tied loosely to the beam by the neck, jumped to avoid the blows, which were delivered by his sister, 13, and brother, 8. While he twisted to avoid one blow, Cahum Pech fell from the beam, tightening the rope around his neck and leading him to die of asphyxiation.

A 74-year-old widow, identified as Lam, was collecting clothes from a drying rack on the balcony of her 27th floor apartment in a district in Hong Kong in 2010 when she slipped and plunged to the ground. She landed on Chan Kwai-mui, 51, a cleaner on her way to work. Both women were killed. That same year, in northern Chile, suicidal Josefina Venizela jumped from the 12th floor of a building and landed on Luisa Almendares, a 56-year-old cleaning lady who happened to be taking out the rubbish from the building next door. Again, both women were killed.

Victoria Delecroix was killed in a plane taking her to a skydiving jump to conquer her fear of heights. She was one of four people who died when their plane suffered engine failure and smashed into an electricity pylon in Sullivan, Missouri, in 2006. The 22-year-old, from Beckenham, London, had been in the USA working at a summer camp for the disabled.

A superstitious man who refused to leave his home on Friday 13th August 2004 died in his kitchen after he was stung by a rare breed of wasp. Florin Carcu, 54, was making coffee when he was stung at his home in Cluj, Romania. His boss said, "He took the day off because he seemed scared of something bad happening."

A woman in Brazil was killed in 2008 by the coffin carrying her late husband when the hearse they were travelling in was involved in a crash. Marciana Silva Barcelos, 67, was on the way to the cemetery in Alvorada, Rio Grande do Sul, to bury her husband, Josi Silveira Coimbra, 76, who had died of a heart attack after attending a dance the previous night. The hearse was struck from behind by an Alfa Romeo and the coffin slammed into the head of the widow, killing her instantly.

Giovanni Greco sent himself literally to an early grave. Greco, 63, was so keen that his future mausoleum would be a perfect fit that he liked to visit it to ensure the builders were making it just right. He made his regular trip to the construction site in the small cemetery in his hometown, near Palermo, Sicily, one day in 2002. He climbed a ladder to get a better view of the top of the mausoleum when he slipped, hit his head on a marble step, and fell into his own tomb.

A Catholic who went to church to give thanks after being rescued from a jammed lift was killed when a stone altar fell on him. Gunther Link, 45, died instantly as he was crushed under the 860lb altar in the Weinhaus Church in Vienna, Austria, in 2009.

A 59-year-old chef died after a 50cm Asian swamp eel was put up his bottom. Doctors in Sichuan, China, found the creature in the man's rectum after his death in 2010. It had allegedly been inserted after the man passed out drunk, by pals playing a prank, but the eel ended up devouring his bowels.

An 18-year-old man was struck and killed by a train in 2006 as he reportedly stood on the tracks and flipped off the train's conductor. Andrew J. Grosenick and another 18-year-old were using the tracks in Kenosha, Wisconsin, as a short cut home around 11.30pm. A train approached and both men got off the tracks, but Grosenick, who was drunk, walked back on to give the middle finger.

A driver decapitated himself by tying a long rope from his neck to a lamppost and accelerating away. A passer-by found his head on the pavement in Stockport, Greater Manchester, in 2001. Police found the headless torso at the wheel of a Citroen that had crashed through a fence a short distance away. In 2008, a gym owner decapitated himself in his Aston Martin sports car. Gerald Mellin, 54, tied one end of a rope around a tree in a car park and the other around his neck and drove his car out on to the main road through Swansea. Mellin was heavily in debt and had gone through a bitter divorce.

A drunken driver ran off the road in 2004 and sideswiped a telegraph pole support wire, decapitating his best friend, 23-year-old Francis Daniel Brohm, who was hanging out the passenger window feeling nauseous. John Kemper Hutcherson, 21, then drove 12 miles to his house in Atlanta, Georgia, and went to sleep in his bloody clothes, leaving Francis's headless body in the truck. A neighbour passing by the following morning discovered the torso and called police, who noted that Hutcherson seemed unaware of the death until he was questioned.

Austrian train driver Hans Fichler, 45, was given a few hours to recover after his train ran over an 18-year-old on the way to Bregenz in 2007. He switched trains to make the return journey, and then ran over and killed two policemen and a coroner who were collecting the youngster's body from the track. Hans suffered from shock and was taken to hospital.

Yoni Cordon, 19, died after falling into a 1,200-gallon vat of liquefied milk chocolate in 2002. He was found by fellow workers at the sweet factory in Hatfield, Pennsylvania. Police believe had had been working on a platform near the opening of the 2m-deep vat, which was used for mixing and melting chocolate. Nobody saw him fall and it was not known how long he had been submerged.

Rescuers found the frozen body of Virglio Bernadino, 57, buried under a mountain of frozen food that had fallen from five 50ft-high racks at the Versacold warehouse in Brampton, Ontario, in 2003. He had been working alone, stacking pallets. Five of the racks holding thousands of 800kg-pallets were found toppled over.

A Japanese paper-recycling company found the body of a 69-year-old part-time worker in a block of compressed paper in 2009. The body, according to police, had been folded and crushed at the plant in central Aichi prefecture.

Robert Ahrens, 36, died in 2005 when he fell into a meat grinder at an abattoir in Narrogin, Western Australia. The machine had to be taken apart to allow the body to be recovered.

Salvatore Chirilino picked up a four-leaf clover on a clifftop in Vibo Marina, Italy, in 1992, then plunged 150ft to his death after slipping on wet grass.

An Indonesian transvestite died in 2003 after he injected himself with silicon that he hoped would enlarge his breasts. Sugrabrata, 35, was found dead in a rented room in a poor district of central Jakarta. He had a substance that police suspected was silicon leaking from a puncture hole in his chest.

In 2011, a 40-year-old lorry driver left his home in the town of Ordes in northwest Spain, planning to walk 20 miles to Caion so that he could give thanks at the shrine of the Virgin of Miracles for his recovery from a road accident a year earlier. A mile into his pilgrimage, he was knocked down by a car and killed instantly, as were his two aunts who were walking with him. A police spokesman said that the driver of the car had probably fallen asleep at the wheel.

Charles Davies, 67, from Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, sang the old soldiers' song *Goodbye* at the annual dinner of the Cotswold Male Voice Choir in Eckington, Worcestershire, in 1995. He finished with the words "I wish you all a last goodbye". As the crowd applauded, he collapsed and died.

Danilo Maggioni, 38, shot a wild boar near his home in Varese, northern Italy, in 1995. Before dying, however, the enraged boar was able to attack Maggioni and hurl him into a ravine. In 2022, a hunter was killed by a wild boar he thought he had shot dead. Giulio Burattini, 36, was bitten on the leg in front of his father and bled to death in Grosseto, Tuscany, after the animal sprang to its feet.

A camel herder in southern Saudi Arabia paid with his life in 2000 for beating one of his beasts. The camel waited all day after the morning beating before trampling the sleeping herder to death and biting his neck. The blood-stained camel was shot dead by the herd's owner.

Two friends died of heart attacks at the same time as they sat chatting over cups of coffee in 2008. Stanimir Dmitrovic, 64, and Slavko Banzic, 46, both suddenly complained of chest pains before collapsing in Banzic's house near Gornji Milanovac, northern Serbia. The coffee wasn't poisoned and there were no other suspicious circumstances.

Brent Stabbed Last, 29, was stabbed to death in 2011 in Calgary, Alberta, by 54-year-old James Karl Bach. His obituary noted that he was also known as Brent Good Dagger.

North Sea oil worker Ellard Zuidema, originally from the Netherlands, was decapitated by a helicopter's rotor blades on the diving support ship *Mayo* in 1992. Mr Zuidema ducked to avoid the blades, but a huge wave caused the *Mayo* to shudder, and the blades dipped to the perfect height to lop off Ellard's head.

A 1996 heatwave in Egypt caused a chemical explosion in a sewer, blowing off a manhole cover which decapitated 12-year-old Rami Farag Khalaf as he worked at a garage painting cars in the Delta town of Al-Santa. Paint run-off from the garage had reacted with the chemicals in the sewer under the intense heat, building up gas pressure that blew off the lid.

Whiteson Mwandiya, 55, was beheaded when a giant pane of glass sliced through his neck as he unloaded it. He was in a six-man team removing the delivery from a truck in Kitwe, Zambia, in 2011 when it began to topple. His colleague, 40-year-old Richard Kasongo, also died after suffering cuts all over his body, while the other four were unharmed.

Chiang Hock Goan, 22, a Singaporean disc jockey also known as DJ Suave, was killed in 1996 in Kandal province, north of the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh. Apparently, he had asked a soldier to shoot at him to test the protective powers of a talisman he wore.

Off-duty bus conductor Adbul Fadli Talib, 24, died after swallowing his dentures while sleeping on the back seat of a bus as it travelled from Kuala Lumpur to Seremban in Malaysia in 1992.

Alla Dalhanna's habit of chewing his sunglasses had fatal consequences. The taxi driver's car was rammed by another in El-Alamein, Egypt, in 1993, and he choked to death.

Brian Depledge, 38, asphyxiated when he became trapped in the rungs of an airer at his home in Bradford in 2011. The father-of-two seems to have tripped over a stool and fallen backwards onto the dryer, trapping his neck and chest between its rungs as it collapsed. His efforts to free himself created a "cat's cradle" effect, which only made the compression worse. The clothes at the top of the dryer were still wet, which increased the pressure on his neck.

Ally McCrae, 23, a cage fighter and expert at Thai boxing and jiu-jitsu from Kilmarnock, was crushed to death in 2011 by a dead cow at an abattoir in Paisley, Renfrewshire, where he worked. It is thought the one-ton carcase slipped from a hook as it was being moved along a conveyor belt.

Retired teacher Ann Newton, 58, drowned in her shallow pond in Penshaw, near Sunderland, in 2011 after being pinned underwater by a garden ornament. She was filling a bird feeder when she slipped on wet grass. As she fell, her blouse snagged the carved tree trunk, which toppled and trapped her face-down under the 18in-deep water. She was found by her partner after he returned from a walk.

Araz Saleh, 23, died after falling off a bucket of mayonnaise and stabbing himself in the heart with an electric drill. He had one foot on the industrial-sized bucket and one on a table while fixing metal panels to the side of a friend's fast-food kiosk in Gloucester Green, Oxford, in 2010. He lost his footing and as he fell his left shoulder hit a wall, driving the power tool into his chest.

A 32-year-old man fell 3,000ft to his death in 2011 after his electric wheelchair suddenly shot forward into a ravine near Trento, Italy.

Neil Micklewright, 19, died after accidentally stabbing himself in the eye with a screwdriver while breaking into a church safe in Oldbury, West Midlands, in 2000. He was found writhing in agony by paramedics.

A Chinese train guard died in 1996 after he urinated on goods in a cargo wagon and set off a chemical reaction that produced toxic hydrogen phosphide gas. He was found unconscious when the train arrived in the city of Tianjin.

A farmer aged 54 climbed five flights of stairs in a hospital in Messina, Sicily, to have a heart check-up in 1981. When he reached the top, he collapsed and died of a massive coronary.

Parisian gambler Michel LaTruille was blowing on his dice for good luck in 1993 when he accidentally inhaled and choked to death on the dice.

Travel agent Charles Larrain died of a concussion in 1994 when he ducked to avoid a spitball thrown by a co-worker and smacked his head against the top of his desk. He died in the ambulance on the way to hospital.

A sneak thief in Zimbabwe attempted to steal food from the animals in Harare Zoo in 1988 but came badly unstuck when he tried to take meat from the lion

enclosure. Zoo owner Vivian Bristow said, "All they left were some bones, an identity card and a driving licence."

When a fortune-teller in Naples forecast that one of his clients would go to jail in 1992, the man was so enraged by the prediction that he pulled out a gun and shot dead the soothsayer – for which he was sentenced to jail.

Menaced for years by a recurring nightmare that he would die before he reached the age of 50, Kurt Jarlsson of Stockholm was delighted when he reached that fateful age in 1995. To celebrate, he threw a massive celebratory party for friends and relatives and dressed up as the Grim Reaper to rub home his triumphant escape, but on leaving his flat to go to the party he accidentally fell seven floors to the ground and was killed instantly.

On Christmas Day 1994, bus driver Niyi Owoeye was driving near Akure, capital of Nigeria's Ondo state, when he saw an antelope at the side of the road and decided to run it over. It was only after he had crushed it that he discovered the "antelope" was in fact Ratimi Alesanmi, a member of the Federal Commission for Road Safety.

Brian Thomas killed his wife of nearly forty years Christine, 57, in their camper van near Swansea, Wales, in 2008 after he suffered a night terror in which he dreamt that Christine was being attacked by a burglar. While suffering the terrors, he went and strangled Christine. It is believed Brian may have been suffering nightmares as he had been triggered by boy racers at the seaside which had bothered the couple earlier that evening.

A 79-year-old pensioner died in 2009 after suffering a brain haemorrhage and a heart attack triggered by a heavy sneeze. John Oram, a retired design engineer, collapsed after care home staff saw him sneeze violently at the home in Torquay, Devon. The force of the sneeze caused brain and heart trauma which led to his death in hospital two days later. Oram had been taking blood-thinning medication which may have led his body to become more susceptible to copious bleeding after a minor trauma.

Mark Houghton, a devoted fan of Liverpool FC, was so distraught to see his favourite team fall 3-0 behind against AC Milan in the 2005 UEFA Champions League final that the 43-year-old hung himself in his house in Darwen, Lancashire.

Teenager Rachel Haigh was taken into hospital in Hastings, East Sussex, in 1999 after developing a sharp pain in her stomach. An urgent operation later found that

Rachel, a 17-year-old trainee hairdresser, had a four-inch-thick hairball the size of a rat which filled the entire cavity of her stomach. Rachel, who had a habit of chewing her hair over many years, did not survive the operation after suffering massive bleeding in her stomach. Haigh died from Rapunzel syndrome, an extremely rare intestinal condition in humans resulting from ingesting hair. Other fatalities of chewing hair include Karen Carroll, 24, of Dublin, and Jasmine Beever, 16, of Skegness, Lincolnshire. Karen, a supervisor at Debenham's, died in 2015, six years after surgery was recommended after a hairball that stretched more than 25cm was located in her stomach and intestines. She declined surgery, and by the time she returned to hospital with dehydration, she was severely malnourished and disorientated. By then, the hairball had stretched to her small bowel, and she died two days after surgery from septic shock brought on by bronchial pneumonia. Jasmine died in 2017 after she was rushed to hospital after collapsing. Jasmine had a long-time habit of chewing and sucking on her own hair that had caused a hairball to form inside of her stomach which led to an infection in her abdomen and damaged vital organs, leading to peritonitis.

A teenager died in 2007 when he fell from the rear of a bin lorry on which he was using to piggy-back a lift home. Rory O'Connor, 19, was found unconscious in South Dublin after falling off the lorry but died in hospital from a heart laceration and severe head injuries. Rory had taken ecstasy and alcohol before his last ever stunt.

Stephen Hayes, a 32-year-old graphic designer, died in a bizarre sex act gone wrong in 2007 when he asphyxiated after wrapping clingfilm around his head. Hayes, from Chippenham, Wiltshire, had viewed fetish websites before carrying out the sexual fantasy while wearing nothing but a pair of Marigold gloves with one finger removed. He had reportedly enjoyed getting his throat squeezed during sex sessions with his girlfriend, 24-year-old Louise Dix.

Church warden Martin Rowe, 47, was found dead, fully clothed in the bath, after deliberately taking a massive overdose of Viagra. The warden, from Southampton, Hampshire, killed himself in 2012 after taking hundreds of times the normal dose which caused severe hypertension.

Craig Taylor was possibly killed by pigeon dung when he died in Balgowlah, New South Wales, in 2007. The 53-year-old Sydney resident was sheltering under an awning during a storm when the large amount of pigeon droppings, plus the heavy rainfall, caused the awning to collapse and crush Craig.

A housewife who failed to prepare lunch for her husband on schedule because she forgot to adjust her watch for daylight saving time killed herself in 1987. Roh Ki Hwa, 34, of Seoul, South Korea, had wandered off to sightsee with her six-year-old daughter and returned to serve her husband's Sunday meal one hour late at a picnic attended by seventy other people. Embarrassed by the error, she ended her life.

A 16-year-old from the Goias region of Brazil died in 2011 from the over-exertions of a night of continuous, compulsive masturbation. A medical examiner said he believed the teenager had masturbated 42 times over a 12-hour period, leading to death. The unfortunate boy's mother claimed her son was addicted to masturbating and was due to see a psychiatrist over the problem. A large quantity of pornography was found in the boy's room and an inspection of his computer found he had invited several classmates to view his fatal frenzy over the internet.

Solange Magnano, who was declared Miss Argentina 1994, died in 2009 from complications after undergoing cosmetic surgery on her buttocks. The 38-year-old died of a pulmonary embolism after the attempted gluetoplasty in Buenos Aires went horribly wrong. A close friend tragically noted: "A woman who had everything lost her life to have a slightly firmer behind."

Jennifer Mitchell, a 19-year-old hairdresser, was killed in 2010 after lighting a cigarette in her car, which ignited the hydrogen peroxide haircare products she was also carrying in her vehicle. Mitchell's death in Stalbridge Common, Dorset, was caused when she opened her window for ventilation, leading to a completion of the fire triangle – oxygen, heat and fuel – which led to the explosion.

An aspiring cook from Edlington, Doncaster, died in 2008 after eating a super-hot bowl of chilli while engaged in an eating contest with a friend. Andrew Lee, 33, used a bag of home-grown red chillies to make a potent, extremely hot sauce. After Lee, a forklift truck driver, ate a plateful of the chillies but then went to bed complaining of itching. The next morning, he was found dead in bed.

The luckless Palmerina Pires Ribeiro, an 80-year-old patient at a care home in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, died in 2012 when a nurse accidentally injected coffee into her veins. 23-year-old Rejane Moreira Telles got mixed up administering the drip and injected coffee mixed with milk directly into Ribeiro's system, causing it to go to directly into the pensioner's heart and lungs. Defending herself on television, Telles said she only had three days experience at the clinic before the accident and insisted that anyone could have gotten the drips mixed up. This wasn't the only Brazilian injecting mishap that year. 88-year-old stroke victim Ilda Vitor Maciel, of Rio de Janeiro, was alleged to have died when one of the nursing technicians

injected soap into the woman's vein instead of her feeding tube, causing a pulmonary embolism.

Chris Ogden, a father-of-two, died in 2013 when he clambered into a recycling bin after a night out in Huddersfield. The bin was then collected by a lorry and taken to a recycling and waste management plant in Leeds where the 23-year-old suffered traumatic asphyxia due to the lorry's compressor crushing his chest. His family were unhappy with the inquest's verdict and hoped that future binmen would at least check refuse bins for rough sleepers before disposing of them.

Michael William Roiall, 34, died in South Auckland, New Zealand, in 2012 after a home experiment which went wrong. Michael, an amateur inventor, was wearing a homemade helmet which he was attempting to use to control devices in his home, only for the helmet to suffocate him.

An unidentified 31-year-old man's dead body was recovered from the East 125th Street 4/5/6 station in Harlem, New York City, in 2013 after he fell from the space between two moving subway cars while defecating on the tracks.

Tokyo officials were prepared to celebrate the 111th birthday of the city's oldest resident, Sogen Kato, in 2010, only to find mummified skeletal remains lying in his bed instead. It appeared that Kato may have died in 1978, but his relatives continued to receive a total of £70,000 in widower's pension payments via Kato's bank since his wife died in 2004. A cause of death could not be determined due to the state of the body. Two relatives, who claimed that Kato had confined himself to his room and became a living Buddha for the last thirty-odd years, were charged with fraud, with one – Sogen's granddaughter – being given a suspended 2 ½ sentence. Five years previously, Japanese police questioned three siblings after it was discovered they had been living with the decomposed corpse of their father for nearly a decade. Police found the body of Kyujiro Kanaoka lying on a futon bed at the family's home in Itami, Hyogo prefecture. Kanaoka's three elderly children, all in their 70s, told police they thought their father was still alive but that one of them recently had consulted a relative about the possibility that he might be dead. Kanaoka had been proclaimed as the oldest man in the entire prefecture by unknowing officials in 2004, when he would have been 107.

A Czech tractor driver died in 2005 under eight tons of manure in an accident that baffled his employers. 34-year-old Martin T. suffocated after the load fell on him while he was dumping it in a field near the western Czech city of Karlovy Vary. "It absolutely beats me how this could happen", said Vladimir Erps, chief of the company employing the victim.

Charles Tucker Jr, 32, was found dead in St Augustine, Florida, in 2007, wedged fast in the cat flap of his girlfriend's house. It appeared that he had been trying to get back into the house after his other half kicked him out. Charles's friend and neighbour, Will Elliot, told reporters: "I don't even know how he could fit through there. Probably to get in and unlock the door. They said he had one arm through there and his head was caught in there like he was to reach up and unlock the door because there's no way he could fit through there."

Ludwig Hoss, a 68-year-old German tourist, was out birdwatching at a hunting lodge in Namibia in 2002 when a guide, Wilfried Vogel, mistook him for a baboon and shot him dead. As soon as he realized his mistake, Wilfried put his gun to his head and killed himself.

In a case which baffled police in Thailand, 40-year-old Wiroj Banlen was found dead on a roadside in 2008 with a cobra carcass in his hands and a condom on his penis. Wiroj was found dead in Ayutthaya province with several snake bites to his body and had also managed to bite the cobra several times, possibly in revenge. But police were unable to come up with any explanation for the condom, especially as no semen was contained inside. Police speculated that Wiroj was removing his trousers when the snake bit.

A man in Kitwe, Zambia, was electrocuted in 2000 when, having run out of space on his clothesline, he unwisely decided to hang the remainder of his wet washing on a live power line which passed his house.

A man from Manchester died in 2008 when he picked his nose so much that he bled to death. Ian Bothwell, 63, who suffered from dementia brought on by alcoholism, died from a terrible nosebleed brought on by constant picking.

James Looney, 40, of Imperial, Missouri, was killed in 2009 after accidentally shooting himself in the head while teaching firearms safety to his girlfriend. Witnesses said he was demonstrating how to use the safety mechanisms on several guns. He would put the guns to his head, ask his girlfriend if she thought the gun would go off, and then pull the trigger. The safety mechanism worked on the first two guns but was less successful on the third.

A 16-year-old business student from China plunged to his death in 2005 while imitating a rock star on the bed of his Singapore hostel room. Li Xiao Meng was playing the guitar and bouncing up and down feverishly on the bed but got so

carried away that he bounced straight out of the open window, falling three floors to his death.

A cyclist crossing an airport runway in Sao Paulo, Brazil, was killed in 1997 when he was hit by a plane that was coming into land. Marcelo Dias dos Santos, 25, couldn't hear the approaching plane because he was listening to his Walkman on headphones.

An 80-year-old grandfather from Split, Croatia, suffered a fatal heart attack in 2009 moments after negotiating a fee of $6 for oral sex with a local prostitute. The pair went to an abandoned house, but as he dropped his pants, the excitement proved too much for him and he collapsed.

Fishing with two friends in 2002, Sergio A. Moreno, 36, decided it would be a fun idea to discharge his gun into a lake in Denton, Texas. Then, for a laugh, he pointed the gun at his nose and pulled the trigger, confident that there were no bullets left in the barrel. He was wrong.

Sevan Kevorkian, 36, from San Diego, California, tried to hang himself in 2008, but his bid was foiled when his girlfriend found him just in time and pulled him down. He reacted angrily to her intervention and the pair argued violently, attracting the attention of a passer-by who, in restraining Kevorkian, applied a wrestling hold to his carotid artery and accidentally killed him.

Jimmy "the Beard" Ferrozzo, the 40-year-old assistant manager of the Condor Club, a topless bar in San Francisco, was crushed to death in 1983 while having sex with an exotic dancer on a piano. Ferrozzo and 23-year-old Teresa Hill were enjoying an after-hours romp on a baby grand when one of the pair inadvertently flipped the switch to the motorized winch that raised the instrument back up to the ceiling. Firefighters arrived several hours later to find Ferrozzo fatally sandwiched between the piano and the ceiling. Only the cushioning effect of her erstwhile lover's body saved Hill's life.

At his retirement home in Dulwich, London, in 2000, Bob Talley read his 100th birthday telegram from the Queen, proudly announced "Yes, I made it", then promptly died.

A 29-year-old man from the region of Ticino, Switzerland, died in 2008 when he fell from a hotel balcony during a spitting match with a friend. He took a run-up from inside the room so that he could spit further but lost his balance and fell twenty feet to the street below.

Florida police had to use fingerprints to identify the remains of escaped convict Anastasio Figueroa, 41, found at a landfill site. Figueroa was serving a life sentence for attempted kidnapping when he escaped the Hendry Correctional Institute in the back of a garbage truck in 1994. Figueroa, however, did not manage to elude the truck's garbage compactor.

In 1991, Jim Terwiel, 21, discovered the body of his mother in her apartment in Leiden, the Netherlands. No cause of death was established until an autopsy revealed a ballpoint pen embedded in her eye and brain. Terwiel was convicted of his mother's murder in 1995, but the court ruled that the mother's death was actually a freak accident when she likely fell while holding the pen in her hand.

Patriot and avid beer drinker Martin Mallon, 34, unintentionally killed himself celebrating Canada Day in 1987. Mallon was enjoying himself at a beer garden adjacent to Canada's parliament buildings on the picturesque bluffs overlooking the Ottawa River. Impatient with the long lines for the port-a-potties, Mallon was relieving himself on the edge of the bluffs when he lost his footing and fell thirty feet to the paved road below. Mallon never regained consciousness before expiring several days later.

21-year-old John Fenzel, a university student from Illinois, bled to death in 1987 when he cut himself with a beer glass. Fenzel had a glass in each of his front trouser pockets when he fell on his way home from a campus party. One of the glasses broke and severed a major artery in Fenzel's leg.

One woman died and ten others were poisoned in 1988 when revellers mistook gas line antifreeze for vodka at a Christmas party. Sallie Redhead, 47, of Thompson, Manitoba, had already been drinking, when someone discovered and served the contents of a plastic soda bottle filled with a clear liquid. Apparently, none of the partygoers knew that their host stored his leftover antifreeze in empty soda bottles.

Sheila Roy, a 37-year-old store clerk from Massillon, Ohio, drowned in a hot tub in 1993 after combining a number of her prescription medications with alcohol. A coroner concluded that the deadly cocktail made Roy "so extremely dysfunctional that she could easily slip down into the tub, lose consciousness and drown."

In 1995, a trucker's helper, identified as Ofori, died in Hohoe, Ghana, when he attempted to carry a 340lb basket of fish on his head. Ofori managed the weight for a few seconds but collapsed before reaching his truck.

Miami resident Johnny Moore, 58, chose to watch TV and bleed to death in 1986 rather than seek medical attention for a cut ankle. Moore's friend, a nurse's aide, put Moore's foot in a plastic basin when she noticed that the blood was messing up her carpet. When a movie they were watching ended at 2:30am, Moore's friend unsuccessfully tried to wake him, for Moore had died after losing three litres, or around 60%, of his blood.

Junius Huggins, 67, of Lake City, South Carolina, bled to death in 1990 from an accidental cut by a wine bottle. Investigating police found 6,100 other bottles of homemade wine on Huggins' property in a building spray painted with biblical verses. Pieces of an illegal distillery were also found but there was no evidence that Huggins was actually selling the stockpile of wine, and as the investigating officer said to media, while Huggins' activities were suspicious, "he's dead. There's not a whole lot of need for me to pursue it."

Millionaire Virginia Hayes, 76, drowned in shag carpeting. The wealthy and reclusive widow fainted getting out of bed in the middle of the night in 1983 and collapsed face down in her carpeting. Mayes' fall was not heard by her two servants also asleep in the mansion in Chambers County, Texas, leading to Virginia's death from postural asphyxia.

17-year-old Joseph McNulty Jr, an aspiring race driver, was killed in 1996 when he suffered fatal head injuries when he leaned out of a school bus to talk to a girl. McNulty's head hit a telephone pole as the bus was pulling away from Bay Shore High School in Long Island, New York.

Singaporean youth Aik Tai Wee, 16, killed himself playing with a hula hoop during gym class in 1991. The student lost his balance and impaled himself on the dull end of a javelin that was planted in the ground nearby.

19-year-old Grant Williams was choked to death by his pet python in 1996 after failing to properly satisfy his pet with food. Grant was found unconscious in a small pool of blood in his New York residence, tightly wrapped in a twelve-foot Burmese python named Damien. The hungry snake had only been fed a single chicken in the week leading up to the attack and may have smelled the scent of chicken on Grant's hands as he prepared to feed him another piece of poultry.

Hie Kerdchoochuay, a popular snake charmer in northern Thailand, was asked to capture a python in his neighbour's house in 1999 because of his well-known charming skills. He caught the snake in the house in the northern region of Uttaradit and was taking it home in a sack when he ran into villagers who asked to

see it. He took it out of the bag and wrapped it around his neck, but it tightened its grip and started to strangle him. Policemen and the watching villagers lit a bonfire to try and distract the python, but the 55-year-old man could not be saved.

Two German tourists in their 70s were enjoying their last day of vacation at a safari park in Alicante, Spain, in 1999. The safari park they went to made it extremely clear that visitors must remain in their vehicles at all times and cannot even open their windows as they come near wild game such as tigers and lions. While driving through the tiger grotto, the pair parked their car, seemingly intent to become even nearer to the wild tigers. Instead, they were quickly pounced on and the woman was found beheaded and the man disembowelled.

Police in the southwestern German town of Bad Urach ruled out both suicide and foul play in the shotgun death of a 51-year-old hunter, whose body was found alongside his car in 1999. Left with no other scenario, the police concluded that the man must have been killed when his dog jumped onto the shotgun laying on the front passenger's seat, causing it to discharge.

Seven current or former firefighters tried to impress their chief in 1999 by setting fire to a house and then putting out the blaze, but one got trapped inside and was killed. Daniel Neil Hixson, a former firefighter, was hoping to return to duty after leaving the department a few years earlier in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and six colleagues apparently thought that if the chief saw him fighting a fire, it would help win back his job. Hixson, 26, poured gasoline inside the home, then became trapped by smoke and flames and died.

Chantelle Bleau, a 16-year-old who was set to appear in an anti-drugs play touring Bradford, West Yorkshire schools entitled *Deadly Deals*, died in 1998 after she inhaled lighter fluid.

A North Carolina woman died in 2000 after falling off the roof of a hotel in Charleston. 36-year-old Patricia C. Logan was slipping on the roof of the King Charles Inn when she apparently slid off and fell five stories onto the street about 4am. Logan and her boyfriend had been drinking and smoking marijuana before falling asleep before she requested to go outside to get some fresh air.

David Solarte, a 37-year-old from Long Island, New York, hired a friend, Carlos Narvaez, to perform a makeshift liposuction in his garage in 1999. The operation went awry, however, when David died during the procedure after suffering a cardiac arrest brought on by a lidocaine overdose.

David Gunn, 65, bled to death in 2016 when he accidentally stabbed himself while slicing open bubble wrap. Gunn was attempting to insulate a sheep pen at his home near Leominster, Hertfordshire, when he somehow managed to stab himself in the neck twice, leading to two deep diagonal cuts which caused him to bleed out.

Rikki Johnson, 50, froze to death in 2020 after a YouTube psychic whom she was a disciple of encouraged followers to meditate barefoot in the rain. Rikki, of Hadfield, Derbyshire, committed the ritual during a night of snow and rain and her naked body was found in fields close to a school playing field the following day, having died of hypothermia.

A grandfather died in 2020 after choking on a mashed-up sprout as a hospital worker fed him Christmas dinner. 92-year-old James Dingsdale was admitted to Glan Clwyd Hospital in Denbighshire, Wales, after a fall, and although staff were able to dislodge the sprout, James suffered a fatal heart attack shortly afterwards.

Steven Oscroft died when concrete fell from a truck and smashed into his car windscreen while he was taking his grandchildren out for the first time after lockdown in 2020. Steven, 60, was driving near Thoresby Hall, Nottinghamshire, when the lorry's load of building materials, which were not properly secured, managed to fall and crash through Oscroft's windscreen, killing him from a severe head injury. Both his wife and grandchildren were unhurt.

What good are rules if you yourself don't bother to obey them yourself? Jeff Atkinson was a victim of this "rules for thee, not for me" mentality when the 76-year-old owner of an HGV firm was killed while cycling by one of his own lorries. Jeff had drummed it into his staff and children that they should never cycle along the near side of an HGV but broke his own rule when he rode on the inside of a wagon near his business in Strensall, North Yorkshire, in 2020, which struck him as it turned out of the haulage firm's yard. The driver had checked both side mirrors but was not aware of his boss's presence in front of the lorry.

Some drivers refuse to get it inside their heads that it's time to quit. Andrew Biddlecombe, 70, was partially blind and had Parkinson's and possible epileptic seizures, but still decided to drive his convertible Morgan Plus Four in Havant, Hampshire, in 2020. Predictably, he hit a post, having made no attempt to brake or miss the post, and suffered fatal neck and head injuries. Neither he nor his doctor had informed the DVLA of his medical conditions.

66-year-old dementia patient Peter Furness choked to death in 2014 at a nursing home in Wrexham, Wales, when he attempted to swallow a latex glove. Peter had a

history of swallowing non-edible items, such as a plastic duck, his own faeces and a kitchen roll tissue, and had already swallowed two previous latex gloves when he succumbed.

A mum-of-four died in a bizarre accident in 2020 in Garden Village, Wrexham, when she was strangled by dog leads while walking her pets. Deborah Roberts, 47, who had Huntingdon's disease, fell after looping the leads around her neck. It is thought her terriers may have caused her death by tugging on them, probably in an attempt to help her, causing asphyxiation.

A man died in 2019 after downing a bottle of Jack Daniels in under five seconds. Refuse worker Samuel Davis, 30, had more than seven times the legal drink-driving limit in his system when he died in Christchurch, Dorset, after being left in the living room of his stepfather's residence to sleep it off. The Dorset coroner said she had never come across such a high reading of alcohol before.

A forklift driver from Burton, Derbyshire, who accidentally shot himself in the private parts with a BB gun died after his injury caused sepsis and multi-organ failure. Mark Humphries, 53, was reluctant to inform doctors what had happened to him when he checked himself into hospital after the incident in 2020. He was then diagnosed with a urinary tract infection and was prescribed antibiotics, which he did not commence as prescribed. He returned to the hospital a few days later but was deemed unfit to undergo surgery and died that same day due to an abscess caused by the testicular injury.

A 27-year-old from Russia died in excruciating agony in 2018 after medics put her on a formalin drip – a solution containing formaldehyde – instead of saline. Ekaterina Fedyaeva had been in hospital in Ulyanovsk for routine surgery when she was given a drip normally infused into the veins of the dead to prevent decomposition. After suffering severe pain and convulsions, she fell into a coma and had to be resuscitated several times. After being flown to a top Moscow hospital, she woke up from her coma, but finally died from multiple organ failure.

Anthony Mason, 21, cheated death in a crash in 2019 when he hit barriers on a roundabout bridge after drinking with pals. He got out but fell 20ft on to the A34 in Wilmslow, Cheshire, where he was struck by an Audi.

Lamont Baillie, a 71-year-old lawyer from Wishaw, North Lanarkshire, died in 2020 when he collided with a deer while riding his bike near the village of Carmichael in South Lanarkshire. He was rushed to hospital but died from his injuries shortly afterwards.

36-year-old Daniel McFarlane accidentally electrocuted himself in 2021 when trying out a new tool for his window cleaning business, after it came into contact with a nearby power line. The equipment was supposed to prevent electric shocks, but it appeared to have been faulty, thus killing Daniel, from East Lothian, Scotland.

In 2002, 70-year-old Fred Ewen lodged a complaint with Dundee City Council, telling bosses that new street signs on his estate were liable to cause confusion and may lead to death if an ambulance crew got lost within the maze. A few days later, Fred suffered a heart attack, but the dispatched ambulance crew got lost within the estate and were forced to stop and ask for directions. By the time they reached Fred, it was already too late.

74-year-old Audrey Welsh died in 2007 after impaling her head on a 3ft spiked railing just yards from her house. Witnesses told police that the pensioner appeared to have stumbled and fallen on to the metal railing in Roseburn, Edinburgh, which impaled into her skull. Firefighters had to use cutting equipment on the metal spike in order to release the dead woman from the railing.

66-year-old charity volunteer Janet Llewelyn was killed after she was struck on the head by a golf ball at a Stirlingshire golf course in 2009.

Tree surgeon James Ogilvie, in his 50s, was found fatally injured by revellers leaving a nightclub at the foot of a Christmas tree in Kirkcaldy, Fife, in 2018. He had climbed to the top of tree, but fell off and smashed down on the ground below.

Andrew Marshall, 71, died from a head injury and compression of the chest after a log pile became unstable and one of the logs fell and trapped him under. The accident happened on a track near a disused sawmill near Kelso, in the Scottish Borders, in 2015.

Natasha Galpin, from Laggan in the Highlands, died in 2019 while riding at stables in Dumfries after her horse suffered a haemorrhage. Natasha, 22, was thrown onto her head and suffered fatal injuries after the horse suffered a ruptured artery between its throat and ear.

It is likely that teenager Samantha Jenkins died from her excessive chewing gum habit. Jenkins, 19, died in 2011 after complaining she had an upset stomach, which she initially blamed on a bottle of soft drink. When her family searched her room

in Felinfoel, south Wales, they discovered a huge amount of empty chewing gum boxes and wrappers. By the time of her death, Jones had low calcium, magnesium, sodium and potassium levels, which may have been the result of malabsorption (digestion difficulties) caused by chewing gum in her stomach.

A retired jockey died in 2018 when she fell onto an eco-friendly metal drinking straw that impaled her eye. Elena Struthers-Gardner, 60, suffered horrific brain injuries in the freak accident at her home near Poole, Dorset. She was carrying a mason-jar style drinking glass with a screw-top lid in her kitchen when she collapsed. The 10-inch stainless steel straw entered her left eye socket and pierced her brain.

Ateeq Rafiq, 24, was with his wife at a Vue Cinema in Star City, Birmingham, in 2018 when he realized his keys and phone had slipped underneath the electronic footrest of his Gold Class chair. He clambered underneath to try and fish them out, but the footrest on the electronic VIP mechanism clamped down on his back and neck. After struggling with the device for fifteen minutes, his wife and cinema staff were able to release him by unbolting the seat from the ground, but Mr Rafiq suffered a heart attack caused by the pressure on his neck. He was rushed to hospital, where he died a week later from brain injuries due to lack of oxygen. The cinema chain was ultimately fined £750,000 for the fatality.

A rugby player died in 2018 when he plunged into a marina after wrongly believing someone had fallen in. Owain Jones, 32, leapt into the water after enjoying a meal and drinks at Penarth Marina, near Cardiff, despite being a weak swimmer. By the time his girlfriend attempted to rescue him, he was too far to reach, and he died from drowning with catastrophic hypoxic oedema and cardiac failure. Police found no evidence of anyone else in the water.

An hotelier died after drinking purple pipe-cleaning liquid he mistook for the soft drink Ribena. Langdon Doidge, 59, of Cardiff Bay, kept the fluid in his fridge and drank it after a night out in 2018. He died of multiple organ failure more than three weeks later.

A multi-millionaire farmer was crushed to death in 2018 by his tractor after his dog started the heavy-duty vehicle. Derek Mead, 70, died after he left the engine of his JCB running and his dog in its cab. It is thought the animal may have pushed the lever when it jumped up to see its master. Derek was crushed against a gate in the incident, which occurred in Bristol, and suffered fatal internal injuries.

A daredevil who got a thrill from lying on railway lines came to a predictable end when he was killed by a train. Paul Hart, 44, was trying to film his stunts when he was hit by a locomotive near his home in Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire, in 2018. Paul got an adrenaline thrill from cheating death by laying between the tracks as trains passed over him.

A worker at an herbal supplements company died in 2018 after taking an overdose of caffeine in a prank that went wrong. John English was found dead at his home in Darwen, Lancashire, after swallowing twenty 1,000mg caffeine tablets at work, after he opened a bottle and swallowed them in front of stunned co-workers. Colleagues realized the pills were dangerous and begged him to go to hospital, but John ignored their concerns and travelled home, where he died from high levels of amphetamine in his bloodstream.

A man died when he was impaled on a glass shard after falling over a case in a hotel room and smashing through a balcony door. Luke Goodere, originally of Skegness, East Lincolnshire, had stopped off at Phi Phi island in Thailand in 2019 while returning to his home in Australia after a UK visit. The 33-year-old went to bed after drinking with pals and later got up and fell. Thai police said the former banker suffered a fatal abdominal injury from a shard of glass.

Deaf father Matthew McPherson, 51, was killed by a fire engine because he could not hear the sirens. Matthew stepped out in front of the vehicle which was on a 999 call, and although the crew tried to revive him, he died in hospital after the 2018 accident near his home in Northampton.

A wedding guest fell 50ft to his death when he climbed on to a hotel roof for a cigarette. Cooper Riswick, 23, had travelled from Ontario, Canada, for the 2018 wedding in Hensol, near Cardiff. The keen hockey player climbed out of a window early one day at the four-star hotel, but fell and sustained head and chest injuries.

Brendan Smyth, a 70-year-old schizophrenia sufferer, complained about a 63-year-old's coughing at their care home in Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, in 2017. The fellow resident responded in kind by hitting Brendan, killing him from a broken spine. The resident escaped conviction due to their mental health.

A woman allergic to peanuts died in 2017 after eating a peanut-flavoured crisp. Georgina Hickman, 24, of Southampton, had checked the packet but nuts were not listed. She ate just one crisp, saying they were "horrible", then had a severe allergic reaction that starved her brain of oxygen.

A Good Samaritan died after getting stuck in a manhole while clearing a drain. Brian Roper, 79, stepped in to unblock his neighbour's sink in Barnsley in 2016, and told her that "an attachment had come off one rod and it would need retrieving from the drain". The neighbour went out, but on returning to her home she saw the soles of Brian's shoes in the manhole. The pensioner was declared dead in hospital from positional asphyxia.

An elderly woman died in 2015 after her electric armchair caught fire while she was dozing on it. Patricia Mallon, 84, set off an alarm and firefighters in Bournemouth, Dorset, found her with burns to her back. She died three weeks later. It is believed that fluid caused a spark in the seat's mechanism.

A study published in 2018 showed that masturbation killed up to 100 Germans a year. One man – wearing pantyhose, a raincoat and a diving suit as well as a plastic bag over his head – died in Hamburg after sitting next to a heater and trying to melt slices of cheese on his body, while a man in Halle was found dead with Christmas tree lights clamped to his nipples having apparently tried to simulate himself by electrocution.

An assistant producer to BBC's *The One Show* died in 2020 after getting tangled in a shower hose at a country mansion where he had been drinking with friends during a weekend away. Charlie Mott, 25, described by *The One Show* host Alex Jones as "hugely talented" (and by me, "extremely stupid"), had been taking part in drinking games at his five-bedroom house, and he may have slipped in the shower whilst intoxicated, causing the freak accident.

Curiosity killed the cat, as they say. 21-year-old Corey Sharpling was crushed to death in 2018 under a landslide on a country road in Wales when he got out of a bus he was travelling in to watch the emergency workers clear the debris from Storm Callum. Suddenly, a landslide sent tonnes of earth and trees toppling on him from a roadside forest, and Corey sustained multiple injuries from which he failed to recover.

A man died in 2016 when he stuck his head out of a train window and was hit by another train travelling in the opposite direction. Simon Brown died from a severe blow to the head after he hung his head out of the window of a Gatwick Express train while at a train station in south London. He'd be a perfect match with 28-year-old Bethan Roper, who lost her life in 2018 when returning home to South Wales after a day of Christmas shopping with her friends in Bath. The drunken Roper ignored prominent warning signs and stuck her head out of the window of

the high-speed train. Her head collided with an overhanging tree branch which caused fatal head trauma.

A tree surgeon bled to death in 2016 after he cut his throat with his own chainsaw. Alexander Kirkley, 32, was sawing a tree in the back garden of a house in Oxford when his tool kicked back and hit his neck, causing profuse bleeding. He was pronounced dead in hospital two days later.

16-year-old Anthony Thompson accidentally hanged himself from a multi-gym in his bedroom in 2015. The schoolboy, who suffered from depression after his grandmother died, was given the multigym by his family to raise his spirits, but he caught his neck in a chain on a machine, suffocating him.

A boy was strangled by his karate belt while copying a martial arts training exercise he had seen on the internet. Thomas Morris, 17, of Morriston, Swansea, had watched the video of experts using a belt under their chin to build up fitness and had shown it to his sisters. His mother found him dead in 2014 in his garden outbuilding gym with a belt around his neck.

Lilian Lee, 85, died in 2014 after pouring cleaning fluid into her coffee instead of milk. The OAP is thought to have taken a bottle of Cif from a kitchen cupboard at her son's home in Somerset, believing she had gone to the fridge. She was rushed to hospital but died the next day from pneumonia due to the effects of the fluid.

Michael Jones, 59, died from choking on a piece of gum. Jones collapsed outside his home in 2012 after returning from a quiet pub evening in Mold, Flintshire. Paramedics tried three electric shock procedures but he was declared dead in hospital. Later, a post-mortem found a 2cm piece of gum blocking his windpipe.

Gwyn Francis, 62, died in 2019 when he suffered a brain injury after choking on steak and chips at a pub in Flint, Wales. Just one day before an inquest on Gwyn's death was to begin, his brother, Selwyn Francis, 68, died when he also choked on food while dining out. He died in hospital a day later. Their brother noted that both he and his two siblings "ate quickly without chewing their food properly".

An elderly author of bondage novels died in 2016 from heart failure while pleasuring himself with an electrical gadget. 77-year-old Terence Wakelin was found dead with "all manners of accoutrements" attached to his genitals and nipples. Wakelin, a former local darts champion, was found by a friend who visited to feed his cats at his house in East Cowes, Isle of Wight.

A father of three choked to death in 2015 as he attempted to eat a McDonald's cheeseburger in one mouthful. Darren Bray, 29, of Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, blacked out as he ate the 99p burger following a night out with friends, and he died from a blockage of his airway. An 8cm by 5cm ball of food was found firmly lodged in his throat.

A grandad-of-six died in 2015 when he crashed into a brick wall after "fainting from laughter". Martin Smith, 58, had been joking with his brother whilst driving in Dartford, Kent, when he abruptly collapsed after seemingly choking on his laughter. His brother tried to steer the convertible away from traffic, but the car took off from the kerb. At least he saved himself from a deep depression – he was reported to be a dedicated Arsenal FC fan.

Christopher Hobbs, 82, was changing the hydraulic liquid at his home in Slough, Berkshire, in 2015 when it became stuck in the pipe. He tried to suck it out but ended up swallowing two big gulps, causing severe damage to his lungs and other internal organs. Mr Hobbs died in hospital nine days later.

Vera Williams, 75, of Rhyl, Denbighshire, died in 2014 when a sharp piece of toast that she swallowed cut her oesophagus, causing massive internal bleeding. After eating the piece of toast, she went to hospital complaining of pains in her throat, but the doctor didn't think she was unwell and sent her home. Two weeks later, she returned to hospital, where the doctor believed she was suffering from some infection and was prescribed some antibiotics. But the following day she again returned to hospital, this time by ambulance, and said she had been coughing blood. A scan then revealed that she had suffered a ruptured oesophagus, causing a large amount of blood to enter her intestines. Because of her severe heart disease, surgery was ruled out and Mrs Williams died a few days later.

Karlis Pavasars, 55, of Peterborough, was shredded to death inside an industrial shredder at a recycling plant near Grantham, Lincolnshire, in 2013. Karlis was seen lying motionless on a moving conveyor belt that ultimately pushed him into the shredder, and he had to be identified by DNA from his toothbrush after only body fragments were discovered.

In a rather suitable irony, a cyclist going 82mph in a 60mph zone was killed when he struck a speed camera sign in 2014. 43-year-old Martin Thompson was overtaking a line of cars when he slid across the road into the signpost in Talke, Staffordshire, killing the warehouse worker instantly.

Candice Campbell, 25, choked to death after falling asleep on a sofa as she ate a chocolate bar. Candice nodded off as she chewed a Kinder Bueno, but painkillers prescribed to fight her post-natal tummy ache had left the young mother from Hull drowsy, and she ended up suffocating on her own vomit when the chocolate bar prevented her from clearing her airways.

Grace Dyson, 18, was killed in Holmfirth, West Yorkshire, in 2014 when she was knocked into the road by her fiancé's umbrella before being killed by a truck being driven by her uncle. According to Grace's significant other, Jason Booth, the metal end of the umbrella got stuck in the crevice of a wall, which made him jolt to the left, causing Grace to stumble onto the road where she was squashed by Ivan Beaumont's truck.

A 12-year-old boy died in 2015 when a metal pole supporting an FA 'Respect' banner was uprooted by a tackle involving his brother and struck him in the head. Oliver Croker was watching an amateur game when his 26-year-old elder brother, Liam Hole, slid in with an opponent and hit a rope designed to hold back spectators. One of the metal anchors flew up to 30m and struck Oliver, from Bampton, Oxfordshire, in the head, causing an extremely severe brain injury.

A man choked to death in 2014 while participating in a pickled egg-eating contest. Gary Mark Sims, 55, challenged his mate to see who could eat three eggs the quickest, but Gary put all of them in his mouth at once at his local pub in Berkeley, Gloucestershire, which asphyxiated him.

An American man choked to death in 2012 after eating dozens of live cockroaches in a contest to win a python. The body of Edward Archbold, 32, tested negative for drugs and a Broward County medical examiner ruled the death was an accident caused by "asphyxia". Archbold collapsed and died soon after the promotional event at a pet store in Deerfield Beach. No other illnesses were reported among some 30 competitors. Now, have a guess on which state this took place in…

45-year-old Susan Woods died in 2020 when returning to her home in Maghull, Merseyside, after a night out with friends. Susan was walking home with her husband when she stopped to buy some wine, but after resuming the walk, Susan fell heavily on the bottles, which broke, causing her to suffer catastrophic and fatal injuries to her neck.

A 74-year-old woman died from smoke poisoning after she accidentally cooked with lubricant instead of cooking oil. Carol Oldfield, who was suffering from the early signs of dementia, put the lubricant on her chips and turned on the hob in the

kitchen at her home in Ripley, Derbyshire, in 2020. She then fell asleep for two hours, and when she woke up, she inhaled white smoke which led to her death several days later from pneumonia.

A farmer was killed at his Oregon ranch in 2012 after being knocked over and eaten alive by his own hogs. 69-year-old Terry Vance Garner had gone to feed his herd, but when a relative went to look for him, they found Garner's dentures and pieces of his body scattered throughout the hog enclosure. It is unknown if Garner collapsed from a medical emergency or was knocked over by the animals in the enclosure.

Gary Allen Banning, 43, died after accidentally drinking gasoline before lighting up a cigarette. Banning was at a friend's apartment in Havelock, North Carolina, in 2012 when he mistook a jar of petrol by the kitchen sink for a drink. After taking a gulp, he spat the liquid out, but got some on his clothes. A short time later, Banning went outside to smoke a cigarette and burst into flames. He died from his severe burns hours later.

58-year-old Clifford Ray Jones, from Detroit, Michigan, was killed in 2016 when he was ejected through the sunroof of his car while driving along the highway with his pants down and masturbating to porn being played on his mobile phone. As well as not wearing any trousers, Jones is not believed to have been wearing his seat belt which may have contributed to his partial ejection from the car. It is believed that Jones lost control of the car because he was distracted and was unable to prevent the 1996 Toyota from spinning because he did not have both hands firmly on the steering wheel.

A window cleaner died in 2009 after stabbing himself in the groin repeatedly with a jumbo souvenir pencil. Jeffrey Burton, 57, was found by police in a blood-soaked room in St Leonards, East Sussex, after worried neighbours called the police after being unable to get a hold of him. Burton had suffered a deep gash in his upper thigh. An inquest was unable to determine what had occurred as Burton left no suicide note and was reported by family to be healthy, sociable, and looking forward for a holiday by the time of his death.

Steven Sharp, 51, died in 2016 after losing huge amounts of blood when he sat on a pint glass. Sharp was found in his Hull residence in a pool of blood after slicing his buttocks with the shards of glass. After being revived by paramedics after going into cardiac arrest, he died of a chest infection in intensive care a week later.

A grandmother was crushed to death in 2021 when part of her house collapsed on top of her while she was hanging the washing out. Clarice Berry, 77, was left buried under 10ft of rubble when the gable end of her home landed on top of her in Wigan, Greater Manchester. She was recovered from the debris by firefighters but suffered a cardiac arrest and multiple broken bones and she died from chest injuries.

A woman was knocked down and killed by a lorry in 2020 when she left her house for the first time after shielding for nine months during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sarah Lewis, 62, who was deemed vulnerable due to a heart condition, became distracted by untangling her facemask from her handbag as she stepped onto the road without looking. At that moment, a lorry reversed onto the street and struck Sarah, trapping her under the vehicle. She died shortly afterwards from multiple injuries.

Matthew Wilmot, 40, died in 2017 after he was found upside down in a hole he had fallen into after it was left unsafe by workmen. Matthew had watched the FA Cup Final at a pub in Luton and had spent the night drinking when he got on a taxi that dropped him near his house. But a hole in the footpath that had only recently been dug out by workmen for a water company had not been properly made safe, and the inebriated Matthew fell into the gaping crevice. He was found upside down by a neighbour the next morning.

Former rugby player Graham Turney, 48, died in 2020 when he climbed onto a banqueting table at his clubhouse, which promptly collapsed. Graham cracked his head on the floor at Brockworth Rugby Club, Gloucestershire, and died two days later in hospital when emergency surgery failed to save him.

While walking through Harbury village in Warwickshire in 2018, 14-year-old Holly Chevassut was whacked by the wing mirror of a passing recovery truck, and she died from the resultant traumatic spinal cord injury.

Dog lover Gary Davies, 36, was trying to reach his trapped sheepdog, who had become stuck in a hole, in Rhayader, Wales, in 2021 when he was buried alive by the tunnel fall. As Gary dug with a shovel to free the frightened animal, loose earth fell on top of him as he shovelled, causing a fatal brain injury.

Army veteran Malcolm Callender, 48, and his son Ewan decided to play an unorthodox game after watching a game of football in Reading, Berkshire, in 2019 – a game of slaps, which simply involved striking each other in the head. Malcolm had earlier slapped 19-year-old Ewan, so decided to offer him a free slap in

retaliation. While reluctant, Ewan committed and slapped Malcolm to make him proud, only for Malcolm to fall backwards on the road, hit his head, and suffer fatal trauma. Not exactly big and tough, more big and stupid.

David John Maw, 64, died when he stumbled drunkenly out of a pub in Barry, Wales, in 2019 and ended up sandwiched between two walls. David was found by a member of the public in the "concertina-like" position between the boundaries of the two walls, causing head and rib fractures.

Lukasz Sandelewski was found unresponsive in his room at the shared house where he lived in Peterborough, surrounded with several empty drinking vessels on the floor. Lukasz, a 36-year-old welder, died in 2019 after unintentionally overdosing on caffeine, but how he came to ingest so many is unknown.

Amy Louise Thorpe, a 34-year-old from the New Zealand city of Invercargill, died in 2018 after drinking two litres of Coca Cola every day. Her addiction to Coke, in addition to consuming up to a litre of energy drinks every day as well, led to a fatal epileptic seizure. Similarly, in 2010, Natasha Harris, 30, died of cardiac arrest after drinking up to ten litres of Coke every day. Where was she from? Invercargill, New Zealand. Do they have a severe Coke addiction problem there?

A man with no legs fell in to his bath and drowned while he was trying to lift himself out of his wheelchair. Glynn Moore, 69, of Cindeford, Gloucestershire, is believed to have hit his head which knocked him unconscious as he fell in 2019. The double amputee was found dead in the bathwater by a pal when she arrived to deliver the grocery shopping she had done for him. It appeared that the accident happened when Mr Moore was lifting himself from his wheelchair onto an access chair above the bath.

As if *Love Island* wasn't responsible enough for the degradation and decline of British society, 30-year-old disabled Mia Austin choked to death in Abersoch, north Wales, in 2019 when she saw contestants on the garbage TV show challenge each other to fit as many marshmallows in their mouth as possible. Mia suffered from locked-in syndrome after suffering a stroke, leaving her unable to speak or move, but she still wanted to participate in the challenge with two friends. Her carer offered to cut up the marshmallow in pieces, but Mia declined, only to panic when she began choking on the sweet. Mia, of Wirral, Merseyside, ended up asphyxiating. She ended up getting named Merseyside's Woman of the Year of 2019, so I guess there's that.

Christopher Brand, who was jailed for life in 1980 for drowning another convict in a bath and was committed to Broadmoor in 2012, made a bizarre and mentally insane bid to guarantee him access to a secure ward – shoving the metal arm of a pair of glasses up his urethra. Brand, who had earlier inserted razor blades up his rectum in 1992, died in 2013 after repeating the gesture several times. Even when necessitating a catheter, Brand ripped half of the catheter off and the rest fell off. He eventually died from an infection.

A man died in 2014 after a vibrator became lodged in his body and he was too embarrassed to see a doctor. Nigel Willis, 50, could not remove the sex aid and spent five days lying on the sofa of the home he shared with his elderly mother in Forest Hill, southeast London. Mr Willis was left dizzy, weak and unable to move, and he was rushed to hospital, where he suffered septic shock and was sent to intensive care. Surgeons managed to remove the vibrator, which had become stuck so deep in Mr Willis's rectum it had perforated his bowel. His condition deteriorated and he died more than a month after admission from multi-organ failure, sepsis and a perforated bowel.

Heels can be a killer, figuratively and literally. 16-year-old Megan Moore died in 2009 when she tripped on high heels on a platform at Angmering, West Sussex, train station and fell under a train. While she was banging on the train's windows to get the attention of two girls on board, whom she was busy arguing with, Megan slipped and fell under the train's wheels, dying instantly. Surely only a drunkard could think this was a good idea? Well, yes…Megan was three times the drink-drive limit at the time.

A man who told people he was blind so they could pity him died in a flooded ditch in 2012. Geoffrey Haywood, 65, walked with a white stick, used a talking watch and had carers to look after him, but he could see perfectly well, and if strangers dropped money on the pavement, Geoffrey immediately picked it up. Mr Haywood was pretending to be blind when he went for a walk near his home in Newport, south Wales, and fell into the water-filled ditch. It is possibly that Geoffrey could see the ditch perfectly well but kept up the blind façade and pretended he didn't, leading to his doom.

Gender-confused Matthew Eyre, 41, burned to death in East Packham, Kent, in 2015 after he set fire to his penis in a bid to become a woman. Matthew doused himself in the accelerant on the traffic island five miles from his home before setting fire to his member but ended up cooking himself instead.

Darren Hickey, a 51-year-old wedding planner from Horwich, Greater Manchester, died in 2019 after he tried a scalding-hot fishcake at a wedding venue. Hickey initially felt a burn at the back of his throat and by the afternoon, the pain got worse, forcing him to visit the urgent care ward at a hospital. Hickey was sent home with painkillers but his partner later found him choking as a result of throat swelling. Despite being rushed to hospital, Hickey died from asphyxiation.

Sam Ballard, of Sydney, was at a party in 2010 when he was dared to eat a slug. The 29-year-old Sam acceded to the dare and ate it, but within a few days he complained of leg pain and was eventually diagnosed with angiostrongyliasis, a parasite that can be passed down from roundworms to slugs and snails, and then to humans such as Sam, who suffered from eosinophilic meningoencephalitis which put him in a coma for 420 days. When he woke up, he had suffered brain damage and became quadriplegic. He died in 2018 from complications from the brain damage.

Carol Hickey, 43, died in 2008 after an allergic reaction caused after having sex with a German shepherd. Its owner, Sean McDonnell, and Carol met in an Internet chat room for bestiality and they met in person in Co. Limerick for the bizarre sex romp which killed the lady. McDonnell avoided prison but did get added to the sex offender register.

Latori Barman, 45, died in 2015 when he drunkenly attempted to walk home in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh and ended up falling into a crater left behind by construction workers. The workmen, who somehow failed to spot Barman, poured gravel into the crater, burying him alive. Only when villagers spotted a hand sticking out from under a pile of gravel did the bizarre death come to light. Two workmen were arrested.

David Dowell, 34, from Queensland, was rushed to hospital and diagnosed with a severe case of salmonella poisoning in 2018, two days after he was dared to eat a gecko at a party. His urine turned black and he started vomiting green bile. His stomach became so bloated that he looked six months pregnant and fluid began to fill his lungs and leak from his stomach. The father of three died in surgery a week after the party, after he "basically rotted from the inside out". While friends reported seeing him eat the gecko, it is not known if this definitely caused his death.

An NHS hospital worker died in 2017 after dropping a 60kg barbell on his stomach after bench equipment collapsed in a gym in southeast London. 39-year-old Babatunde Plumptre suffered lacerations on his liver and spleen while using

the machine and was left rolling around on the floor in agony. Open heart surgery failed to help and Plumptre was pronounced dead later that afternoon.

When you have to go, you have to go! 22-year-old Faye Reed died in 2019 after falling off a cliff edge while desperately searching for a toilet nearby. Faye was travelling by car with a group of friends when they stopped at the side of the road at Beachy Head, East Sussex, to look for a lavatory. Being pitch black, Faye failed to notice the cliff edge in front of her and stumbled into the abyss below.

Marcin Porczyk, 18, drowned in 2017 after getting submerged in a thick slurry where wet concrete was stored after vanishing on a night out in Swansea. Marcin had been drinking with friends before his death, and his body was discovered on a building site two days later when a workman spotted the outline of a body between two spoil heaps and a "concrete washout" storage area at a nearby construction site. The coroner's verdict on cause of death was hypothermia caused by being immersed into cold, wet mud slurry whilst intoxicated, although Marcin had also swallowed slurry, as it was beneath his vocal cords, and there was evidence his lungs were put under stress.

A 22-year-old stabbed himself to death in 2017 in the mistaken belief that the jacket he was wearing was "stab-proof". Jordan Easton, of Thornbury, Teesside, was sitting in the kitchen of a friend's house when he decided to test the lifesaving properties of his top. He died in hospital of a single stab wound to the chest.

A British tourist who took a loo break near a restricted dam in St Lucia was electrocuted after stepping on live wires. Martin Ellis's three sons heard the 68-year-old cry out before finding him lying in mud in 2019. One son was shocked himself trying to save the businessman, of Highgate, North London.

In the hope of scaring her cheating husband, Ambreen Hussain, 35, poured petrol over her body and threatened to light herself on fire. Unsurprisingly, that was exactly what happened – Ambreen accidentally put the lit piece of paper too close to her body and caught fire in the back yard of her family's home in Middlesbrough in 2018. She died of multiple organ failure after suffering burns to 90% of her body. That sure did scare her husband.

Steve Westbrook, 47, was killed in 2018 after getting trapped 50ft in the air for more than an hour in a huge metal pressing machine. After being rescued by paramedics in Telford, Shropshire, he was sent to hospital where he failed to recover.

A football fan died in 2018 after he tripped on his flip-flop and hit his head returning home from watching a FIFA World Cup match. Richard Best, 44, suffered a severe head injury and was found at the bottom of a steep bank the morning afterwards in Baglan, South Wales. Best, who was intoxicated at the time, was rushed to hospital but perished from the severe inter-cranial bleed.

Drunkards do the stupidest things. While on a lads' holiday in Ayia Napa, Cyprus, in 2013, 21-year-old Kona Gamble plunged to his death as he tried to climb down to his room from the hotel roof after a night out. The electrician apprentice, from Braunstone, Leicestershire, lost his footing and hit the ground hard, suffering a fatal head injury as a result.

Drunken 17-year-old Madeline Burgess possibly tripped over her shoelaces, causing her to fatally fall into the path of a Tesco lorry as she left bonfire celebrations in 2017. Burgess had been drinking vodka and was two-and-a-half-times over the legal drink driving limit when the Tesco truck delivered her to the afterlife in East Hoathly, East Sussex. A friend told the inquest: "I had to tie her shoelaces twice that night. They were loose and long and kept coming undone," possibly explaining why she tripped over.

William Hannah, 68, was possibly another victim of medical negligence when his lungs were mistakenly washed out with cleaning fluid in a botched procedure at Salford Royal Hospital in 2017. William, of Bolton, died several days later but it was not clear whether the incident played a part in his death. William, who was admitted after being knocked down by a car, developed a lung infection in hospital, but the trolley containing the bronchoscopy equipment had not been stocked up ahead of the procedure. While trying to get from saline, a member of staff was mistakenly given a bottle of detergent mixture instead. Once the mistake was uncovered, a second wash-up with saline was conducted, but William's condition continued to worsen and he contracted sepsis and cardiovascular collapse, which ultimately led to his demise.

Confused 76-year-old John Haughey died in hospital after mistakenly drinking a bottle of hand sanitiser. John was in a confused state when he drank a full 535ml bottle of Purell hand sanitiser which was attached to his bed at Hull Royal Infirmary in 2015. It is believed he was suffering from a chest infection when he was admitted onto one of the hospital's wards five days earlier. After quickly losing consciousness, Haughey developed bronchopneumonia due to acute alcohol toxicity.

Hoarder Gwyn Mead, 75, died after tripping over a coffee table at his house in Taffs Well, Cardiff, in 2018. The coffee table was crushed beneath him, breaking his leg, and he died from biliary sepsis in hospital weeks later. Due to his hoarding tendencies, there was little space for Gwyn to manoeuvre around, causing him to trip.

Teenagers just can't leave their phones behind for a minute, can't they? 17-year-old Georgia Walton learned the hard way that a combination of social media and driving usually kills in 2017 when, while viewing WhatsApp and Snapchat messages on her phone, she ploughed her car into a lorry near Market Drayton, Shropshire. Paramedics were unable to save Georgia, who was pronounced dead at hospital from the road traffic collision. An examination showed that Georgia received seven messages on her phone between 10.29pm and 10.31pm, less than a minute before emergency services were called. 17-year-old Shannon Gittings also died in the same spectacularly dumb way in 2018 while texting her boyfriend just weeks after passing her driving test, where surely she was taught that full attention to the road was mandatory? Shannon, from Diss, Norfolk, lost control of her grey Fiat 500 before veering into a roadside verge across the busy A140, before crashing into a tree on the other side of the road in Tasburgh. The newspapers called it "tragic". I call it "natural selection".

A chef died in 2015 after falling on his wine glass while on a holiday at a caravan park. Sam Sommerville, 36, bled to death after the glass he was holding pierced his neck at a caravan park in Tunstall, East Yorkshire.

John Joseph Burgess, 27, died after he was hit on the head by a Tube train as he bent to pick up an item dropped on the platform. Burgess died three days after the incident at Stockwell station, south London, in 2015.

A pensioner was crushed to death by his fridge when he grabbed it while suffering a stroke and it toppled over on him. William Woolley, 67, was in his utility room in 2014 when he suffered the brain injury where the unit was standing on an insecure plinth. His body was found under the fridge three days later when concerned neighbours called police and officers broke into his home in Ynysddu, near Newport, south Wales.

74-year-old Gerry Harper was killed when he slammed his boot and sent his car into reverse in 2015. The pensioner believed the Land Rover was in park mode as he unloaded a bag with the engine running, but the automatic was in reverse and shutting the boot activated its engine, causing Gerry to be "sucked" under the vehicle in Llanfrechfa, near Cwmbran, south Wales.

David Dampier, 76, died after tripping over a speed bump in a Tesco car park in 2014. David, a retired bank manager, hit his head in the fall and died a month later of kidney failure after bleeding within his skull caused dehydration. He had the accident after shopping with wife Cecilia in Yeovil, Somerset.

University lecturer Eilir Hedd Morgan, 29, was killed when his head was crushed against a wall by the bucket of a mechanical digger in 2013. Eilir was hit in the farm near Caernarfon, Gwynedd, after the operator's coat caught on a lever, swinging the bucket.

A man died from a heart attack after getting blood poisoning from biting his nails. John Gardener's habit became so severe that one finger turned septic, and in 2013 he had the tip amputated. He died eight days later. The 40-year-old, an amateur football referee from Wigan, Greater Manchester, had suffered ill health through being diabetic and in 2011 had his lower right leg amputated. John had been treated for anxiety and depression, and his nail-biting intensified to the point that he lost feeling and sensation in them.

A practical joker's prank backfired when his wife found him hanged in their conservatory. Victor Hayles, 57, would frequently fake accidents and play dead, but while preparing to scare his wife one more time in Portsmouth in 2013, Victor managed to hang himself for real.

A father and his two children were gassed to death over Christmas 2011 in an accident caused by an empty crisp bag. The packet blocked their chimney, meaning deadly fumes filled the room where they were sitting. Former bricklayer Trevor Wallwork, 50, his daughter Kimberley, 12, and son Harry, nine, were watching TV when the discarded packet was hurled on to the open coal fire at their cottage in County Sligo, Ireland. The crisp packet inflated "like a hot air balloon" inside the flue and stopped invisible and deadly carbon monoxide from the fire from escaping.

Former pottery worker Shirley Perkins, 55, suffocated in 2012 after falling and trapping her head behind a stairlift. Perkins had breathing difficulties, but despite having a stairlift installed in her house in Stoke-on-Trent, she rarely used it. She was found dead by her daughter, who presumed she had been drinking.

A university student took her own life after she was wrongly told she had flunked her exams. Mared Foulkes, 21, received an automated email hours before her death in 2021. It said she had failed a re-sit with just 39% and would not be moving on

to the third year of her pharmaceuticals course. She had, in fact, passed with 62%. The lower figure related to an exam she had failed in March and not the successful re-sit. Shortly after receiving the email, Mared jumped off Britannia Bridge across the Menai Strait.

After recovering from a very aggressive form of cancer, 31-year-old Adam Fenton decided to celebrate his miraculous recovery by holding a party with friends. However, while drunkenly attempting to find somewhere to sleep off the alcohol, Adam fell off a 50ft clifftop in Newquay, Cornwall, and plummeted to his death.

Christina Ann Fletcher, 58, died in 2016 from an overdose of morphine after a delivery man mistakenly gave her the pain medication meant for a neighbour in Heywood, Greater Manchester, in 2016. Christina lived four doors down from Ann Fletcher, who needed the morphine for her Alzheimer's, and both were patients of the same chemist. Christina was not asked to confirm her name or address or to sign for her prescription, and the virtually blind woman was found dead by police officers, having taken nine 50mg tablets.

Keelan MacKnight, 15, of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, collapsed in goal when a football hit him in the chest during a kickabout in 2017. He was airlifted to hospital but died the next day. The teenager was hit in the "tiny fraction of a second" when his heart was vulnerable as part of its normal cycle. It caused a concussion of the heart, a rare medical phenomenon upsetting its rhythm. Scott Marsden, a 14-year-old kickboxer, died during a kickboxing bout in Leeds in 2017 when he was struck on the chest, causing a similar concussion. Known as commotio cordis, this disruption to the heart rhythm is often lethal, with a 65% chance of dying even with prompt CPR attempts. The average age of those who die from the condition is fifteen as their thorax is not fully developed, and baseball is the most common sport played by those who die from the condition, often despite a chest protector.

Amateur boxer Jason Morgan, 43, died after suffering severe injuries in a fall when an unsecure baby safety gate gave way at the top of the stairs. Morgan had just returned from a night out celebrating his birthday in 2016 when he pulled on the metal gate, which came loose, causing him to lose his footing and fall down the stairs, causing traumatic head injuries.

Richard Bull, 32, was electrocuted in 2016 while charging his iPhone in the bath as he got ready for a family Christmas party. Bull, of Ealing, west London, ran an extension wire from his hallway into the bathroom, before resting the cable on his chest while charging his phone. When the wire came into contact with the water, it caused severe burns on Richard's chest, arm and hand, frying him instantly.

An 18-year-old student died from a severe asthma attack in 2016 as she desperately tried to catch a tram in Manchester. Lucy Goldstone was on her way home with friends following a night out when they spotted the tram about to leave. The group ran up three flights of stairs and just about managed to get on board, but Lucy suffered cardiac arrest after she collapsed in her seat fighting for her breath. Moral of the story? Just patiently wait for the next tram.

Shirley Anne Benning, 84, was found dead in her home in Ilfracombe, Devon, in 2016 after she accidentally strangled herself with her own clothing. Benning was found bent over her walking frame, suspended by her clothing with a deep strangulation mark around her neck. It appeared that Benning's clothes became tangled in the handle of her walking frame after she had lost consciousness whilst using it.

A woman from Pennsylvania was found dead in 2017 after she was left dangling above the ground as her arm got trapped in a clothing donation bin. Judith Permar, 56, died from a combination of trauma and hypothermia after she was unable to remove her arm from the drop-off box in Natalie. The short woman was using a step stool to reach into the bin when it collapsed beneath her, trapping her left arm in the clothing box and suspending her in mid-air. By the time she was found six hours later, it was too late.

47-year-old Andrew Robinson bled to death in his home in Newton Abbot, Devon, in 2016 after trying to pop a spot on his arm with a knife. Andrew, an aircraft engineer, had been trying to treat the giant cyst on his right arm with a large knife, but suffered exsanguination when the DIY surgery went horrifically wrong. Andrew had lost all sensation in the arm following an operation to remove an infection from his spine several years before.

A dog walker was killed by a tyre that flew off a trailer and slammed into his chest. 79-year-old Peter Smith was struck by the loose wheel while walking his pet next to the A38 near Newton Abbot, Devon, in 2021. The Mitsubishi L200 was towing a livestock trailer which lost a wheel, which in itself smashed into Peter, who was pronounced dead on the scene.

A man who was bought a tattoo by his girlfriend as a birthday present died days after it became infected in 2008. John Chillingworth, 35, complained that the six inch image of a wizard was "stinging a bit" within hours of having it etched on his right calf. The pain spread up his leg before the skin around the £80 tattoo became red and puffy two days later. Doctors prescribed painkillers and antihistamine pills

but although the scab started to heal, John stayed at home to recover. Ten days after getting his tattoo, he was found lifeless on his sofa at his Bungay, Suffolk, property and was pronounced dead shortly after. The cause of death was a blood clot in the lung from a deep vein thrombosis in his right calf.

A rider was killed in 2016 when her horse bolted, pulling a rope tight around her neck. Equestrian centre boss Kathryn Bull, 39, died of a broken neck as she was dragged for 150m across a field, as the lead rope, which for unknown reasons had been draped around her shoulders, formed a ligature in the bizarre accident. Kathryn died at the centre she owned in Bildworth, Nottinghamshire, as she was preparing horses in a field to be taken to an equine dentist. She stood close to two animals and had managed to get the head collar on one and attach a lead rope. But one of the horses then ran off, sharply pulling on the rope.

Grandad Stan May, 74, died after slipping on water which had been leaking for two days from a faulty supermarket chiller. May was found lying in a pool of water by horrified shoppers at the Co-op branch in Truro, Cornwall, in 2015, and died from a brain injury two days later. Store bosses had been aware for some time of water pooling under the sandwich chiller and had placed a warning sign, but they did not call an assistant or get a shop assistant to police the affected area.

John Sullivan, a postman who had a long history of sleepwalking, died when he set off to do his rounds in the middle of the night and accidentally drowned. Sullivan, 66, jumped on his bicycle at 3am while still asleep and rode into a fast-flowing river in Abergavenny, Wales, where he drowned.

A spurned lover managed to hang herself with her handbag strap in 2007 as her ex-boyfriend lay sleeping in front of her. Helen Pocock, 22, had an on-off relationship with Mark Cripps for more than two years until he called off the romance. But she persuaded him to let her go to his home in Maidenhead, Berkshire. When they arrived they drank and argued. He fell asleep but woke up to find Helen hanging from a wardrobe. She was rushed to hospital and died after four days.

A man choked himself to death by stuffing a baguette into his mouth in 2009 as his horrified girlfriend watched helplessly on. Craig Short, 52, shoved the sandwich so far down his throat a paramedic had to use forceps to remove it. He shoved the baguette down his gullet while engaged in an argument with his partner in Middlesbrough.

Ronald Matthews, 72, was making alcohol at his home in Gwynedd, Wales, in 2016 when he inhaled the fumes of his 60% proof home-brew hooch and collapsed in

his bath. Ronald had a boiler in his bathroom which had clear pipes running to both a glass jar in the sink and into his bath, but he ended up intoxicating himself on his product and was found submerged in the bath by police. It is believed Ronald may have died from burns caused by the scalding hot water in his bath.

Liam Andrews, 17, of Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham, collapsed from a brain haemorrhage after a sneezing fit which saw him sneeze six times in quick succession, causing a seizure. Liam, who had no underlying health problems, died four days later in hospital. His seizure may have been caused by pressure build up in the brain due to the powerful sneezes, although such cases are extremely rare.

Anyone who thinks bridge is a boring game is right, but Wendy Brown, 80, died from overexcitement in 2013 when she played a high-scoring hand which contained 29 points. So stunned she was at playing the perfect hand, a major blood vessel in her heart failed and she collapsed with the cards still in her hand.

Drunken British businessman Simon Bartlett, who worked for a firm of architectural engineers, died in Paris in 2013 when he stopped to urinate during some late-night sightseeing at the French capital. Bartlett, 49, was found lying face down at the bottom of the dry moat surrounding the building with his trousers undone after he plunged 10ft from the moat while doing what was ultimately his last ever toilet break.

In 1984, Reginald Tucker, a promising young lawyer, was attending a Fourth of July party at the high-rise offices of his Chicago law firm, Schuyler, Roche, and Zwirner, when he started having a friendly argument with a colleague about the Olympics. The argument ended with a race that took place on the 39th floor of the office block, and it ended badly for Tucker, 29, who had poor eyesight and wasn't wearing any visual aids at the time. He forgot to stop at the full-length plate-glass window at the end of the corridor, and smashed through it, plunging to his death in front of hundreds of onlookers.

In 1997, the friends of Sylvester Briddell Jr, 26, wagered that he wouldn't place a pistol containing four bullets into his mouth and pull the trigger. Sylvester, of Selbyville, Delaware, did exactly that. He may have lost his life, but he did have the last laugh.

After Armanda Cassa read an erroneous newspaper report which stated that he had died in a fire at his block of flats in Puerto Rico in 1991, he was so distraught he killed himself by leaping from the apartment's roof.

In 2013, Joaquin Alcaraz Gracia entered a beer-drinking competition at a festival in Murcia, Spain, and absolutely smashed the opposition, knocking back six litres of lager in twenty minutes. However, once he lifted the trophy, he started vomiting without stopping, and ended up collapsing from a fatal heart attack. The mayor called for a three-day official period of mourning, for an obese 45-year-old who drank too much alcohol.

37-year-old Indian mother Tamilselvi was told that transplant operations were the only way that her blind sons, aged fifteen and seventeen, would ever be able to see. So, she registered herself on a donor programme and then committed suicide in 2005 at her home in Kodungaiyur, a neighbourhood in north Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Unfortunately, when doctors examined her eyes, they found they were unsuitable for transplantation.

Basil Brown, 48, of Croydon, south London, died in 1974 when he became addicted to carrot juice, which turned his skin bright yellow before he died of cirrhosis of the liver. The scientific adviser was drinking up to a gallon of carrot juice every day, and was also consuming vitamin tablets by the handful. Brown, who had a low opinion of doctors, died from his attempt to live long.

Bulgarian Dimitrina Dimitrova was overcome with excitement when her boyfriend proposed to her on a cliff overlooking a well-known beauty spot in Ibiza in 2015. The 29-year-old jumped up and down for joy and slipped off the cliff.

In 1994, a French postman, Jean Cellise, cut himself open to check that doctors in Toulouse had removed his appendix properly. They had, but he bled to death.

Ken Barger, of Hickory, North Carolina, was asleep in bed at his home in 1992 when the phone rang. Leaping into action, Ken grabbed the phone, put it to his ear and pulled the trigger, for his 'phone' was actually a .38 revolver.

Detroit woman Adaisha Miller, 24, began dancing with off-duty police-officer Isaac Parrish at a party in 2012. However, Miller was carrying his service pistol, and as she wrapped her arms around him she somehow activated the trigger. The gun discharged and the round struck her in the lung and heart.

Roger Mirro, 56, was found crushed to death in 2013 in a trash compactor at his apartment complex in Chicago, Illinois. Mirro was attempting to locate his cell phone when he decided to go down the trash chute in the hallway outside of his apartment. His dead body was found inside the compactor with "obvious signs of trauma".

Joaquin Laguer was getting a tattoo saying "Last Rites" at an unlicensed parlour in Brooklyn in 2005 when he stood up, lurched sideways, smashed into a glass display cabinet and almost decapitated himself.

A man from Point Lonsdale, south of Melbourne in Australia, died in 2005 when he tripped outside his house with a plate to give the leftovers of his supper to his dog. The 57-year-old tripped, the plate broke and, as he fell, razor sharp shards of the glass cut his jugular vein.

An unnamed man from the southern Bulgarian town of Sandanski met a bizarre end when, while drunk in 2005, he met some friends and asked them to lend him some money. They handed him some coins, which he promptly dropped. As he bent down to pick them up, the knife which he habitually carried in his inside pocket rode up and entered his chest. He died on the way to hospital.

28-year-old teacher Michael Orridge died after becoming paralyzed when he dived headfirst into shallow water while on holiday in Playa del Rompeculos in Spain's Huelva province in 2017. Realizing how shallow the water was after having dived, Orridge decided to move his arms to his side to avoid breaking them, only to smash his head and neck instead. Doctors attempted to operate on his neck in a bid to straighten it but during one of the procedures carried out at a hospital in Seville, complications caused his heart to stop. When doctors gave him drugs to kick start his heart, it caused a haemorrhage in his brain which led to his death.

Perhaps gurus aren't nothing more than cranks. Certainly 64-year-old Kimmy Varma should have listened to her guru, who warned her and her family that she should stay away from railings. A month later in 2017, she leaned out through the railings of her flat in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, to have a cigarette, but she somehow got stuck in a position she could not free herself from, despite pulling at the curtains so heavily that some of the screws came loose from their rail. She ultimately died from positional asphyxia two hours before a jogger called the emergency services.

Katie Widdowson, 23, became just another fatality of a sex game, but unusually, she died from necrotizing fasciitis caused by her attempts at romance. Katie was tied to her bed when she was injured during sex in 2017 with her boyfriend, causing what was first thought of to be a sprained wrist. The next day, the wrist turned black and was covered in blisters, and was also paralyzed. She died of a heart attack *en route* to hospital in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. The cut which

allowed the bacteria to spread was most likely caused by Katie being tied up in bed by ropes.

Fitness addict Steven Baker, 56, was a fatality of his desire to pump more iron when he was crushed under a 100kg weightlifting machine while training in his home gym. Steven was found at his home in Leicester in 2017 trapped underneath the 15.5st bench press, which had crushed his throat. The extreme amount of pressure on his neck eventually caused a fatal heart attack.

Instant karma was served to 30-year-old Kieran Church when he attempted to shoplift several bottles of alcohol from a Sainsbury's in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, in 2017. He was confronted by a security guard over the alleged theft, who pounced on him from behind, causing Kieran to fall down on the brandy bottles, causing a catastrophic haemorrhage from the wounds on his abdomen.

A tiny cut on her toe was enough to snuff out 46-year-old Staffordshire policewoman Kimberley Sumner in 2016. Police initially suspected foul play when her body was found due to the excessive amount of blood, but the injury to her middle toe was the only wound that could be found on her body. Due to an alcohol-related liver disease, Kimberley suffered from clotting problems and may have died from a combination of her injury, problems with blood clotting, and sclerosis of the liver.

20-year-old student Francois Alexis plunged 100ft to his death down a chimney shaft after going up to the roof of an apartment to enjoy the view across London. His body was found in the basement of a seven-storey residential building in Great Cumberland Place, near Marble Arch, in Central London, in 2015. After smoking weed and drinking beer, Francois had gone up to the roof of the apartment block and sat at the edge of the chimney shaft to keep warm when he fell backwards down the shaft. By the time his soot-covered body was recovered by paramedics and firefighters, he was dead from multiple traumatic injuries.

Bethan Gaskin, 24, choked to death attempting a party trick known as the "Jaffa Cake challenge" – fitting as many Jaffa Cakes into her mouth as possible. The mother-of-one suffered cardiac arrest at her home in Bourne, Lincolnshire, in 2019. Her family found her on the toilet floor after congealed chocolate and jelly got stuck in her throat. She was taken to hospital, where she died five days later from a brain injury.

A 37-year-old Dutch tourist choked to death on a set of car keys in 2021 in a Barcelona supermarket while on holiday with his family. The man entered the store

in the city centre in what *20 Minutos* described as "an evident state of excitement". Police officers, who didn't realize he was choking, restrained the man, who collapsed and lost consciousness. Paramedics were called and resuscitation efforts managed to make him cough out his car keys, but he died early the next morning. The most important question – how on earth did he swallow his car keys – remains unanswered.

A man with a history of mental illness and self-harm died in 2021 after he disembowelled himself while in custody at the Montana State Prison. Shaun Duncan Morrison, 39, died from a self-inflicted open wound to his stomach wall. He lived for four days before dying from his injuries as well as sepsis while receiving treatment at hospital. Morrison had been incarcerated for life in 2011 after he killed another inmate at the prison.

A woman was killed in 2014 by a falling stone gargoyle as she walked along the street in Chicago. 34-year-old Sarah Bean died almost instantly when she was hit on the head as she walked past the Second Presbyterian Church. A piece of metal is thought to have come loose from the building, which was more than 100 years old, and knocked a chunk of stone from the statue.

Rita Wilson, 67, died in 2014 when she was knocked down by her own car and her leg was severed in front of a horrified friend. Wilson's automatic car sped backwards when she pressed the accelerator instead of the brake as she tried to stop it rolling away. She leant into the car in a bid to stop it moving in a Weymouth, Dorset, car park, but she was dragged along by the car and her leg became trapped between a vehicle and a wooden post. She died in hospital eleven days later.

The suicide of a dementia patient in 2014 may have been triggered by a Channel 5 documentary on Harold Shipman, the infamous doctor and serial killer who possibly killed around 250 of his patients. Albert Bevins, 85, who hanged himself at his care home, was prone to acting out his dreams, and usually related things he saw on the TV to himself. Albert died in the care home in Blackley, Manchester, a day after the Shipman documentary was broadcast, with a psychiatrist noting that he had dementia with Lewy bodies, causing him to have vivid dreams which he attempted to act out.

Steve Wolstenholme walked into the kitchen of his house in Stockport, Greater Manchester, in 2015 when he saw his wife, Carol, cutting her arm. In desperation to save her, Steve tripped her up and pushed her to stop her, but fell on top of her in their hallway as she lay face down, asphyxiating the 50-year-old in the process.

A 17-year-boy hanged himself accidentally in 2015 when the drawstring of his hoodie got snagged in a garden gate - in what has been described as a "rare and freakish" tragedy. Talented inline skater Adam Cullen is believed to have died in seconds after getting suspended from the 7ft high latch when the drawstring of his hoodie, which he had tied in a bow, got caught in the gate latch. He is believed to have died seconds later and his lifeless body was discovered at his home in Beeston, Nottingham. In 1997, a nine-year-old boy was dragged to his death when his coat toggle became trapped in the door of a tube train. Ajit Singh was killed when he slipped away from his foster dad, trying to board a train. The dad could only watch as Ajit was dragged screaming to his death after a toggle became trapped, pulling him through the air before he smashed into a tunnel wall.

16-year-old schoolboy Temidayo Joseph unintentionally killed himself in 2014 while experimenting to see how famed comedian Robin Williams died. Williams hanged himself in 2014 due to his struggle with Lewy body disease. For some reason, Joseph decided to test out the method, only to end up a fatality himself. He was found slumped in a seated position on the floor by his mother with his school tie around his neck.

A construction worker was crushed to death when nearly a ton of concrete collapsed on him in a tunnel in 2014. 44-year-old Rene Tkacik was working on a Crossrail site in central London when the wet concrete poured down on him. He lay unconscious for fifteen minutes before medical staff arrived, but after being extracted by paramedics, he died from blunt force trauma to the head and chest.

An OAP died in a fall after her friend let go of her wheelchair to photograph some ducklings. Jean Sloan, 81, had asked Jane Miller to take the snap as they passed a pond in 2014, but the wheelchair rolled on as Miller got out her iPad. She went to grab the wheelchair, but Sloan, who lived in a nursing home in Diss, Norfolk, fell to the ground and died at the scene from a ruptured spleen.

16-year-old schoolgirl Milena Gagic died after being struck by a train after she sat near railway tracks to have a late-night chat with her best friend. Milena was giggling with her pal when the last train of the night from Manchester Victoria to Leeds, travelling at 55mph, smashed into her in 2014. Milena, from Halifax, West Yorkshire, was said to be a potential Oxbridge student. Personally, I doubt that.

Claire O'Hanlon, 47, was crushed to death by a lorry after drunkenly jumping on to the back to get a lift home. Claire, along with a housemate, had clambered on to the lorry while three times over the drink-driving limit in 2014, trying to get on its

side. The lorry driver, unaware, continued on his journey and went over a speed cushion at 15mph. The resultant jolt caused Claire to lose her grip and get run over by a tyre.

A mother-of-three died after medics cancelled two vital operations because she was suffering from head lice. Lindsay Swanson, 34, had been diagnosed with acute pancreatitis caused by gallstones and was told she would have them removed within six weeks, but surgeons at Leicester General Hospital twice refused to carry out the operation for fear of infection from the lice. The pancreatitis ultimately led to multi-organ failure, killing Lindsay in 2013.

Sheep breeder Jim Sharp, 66, suffered multiple fatal injuries in 2014 after being dragged into a piece of farm machinery by his shoelace. Jim was minced on his farm in the Scottish Borders after his shoe lace wrapped around the grain auger, which contained several feet of barley.

Dr Julia Cross, 36, died of 95% burns after deliberately setting her arm on fire to try and force doctors to give her a skin graft. Cross, who suffered from self-harming scars, was rushed to hospital in 2014 after neighbours were alerted to her screams and found her ablaze in the garden of her home in Angmering, Littlehampton, West Sussex. After doctors declined to give the GP a skin graft due to her propensity to self-harm, Cross decided to force the matter by burning her arm.

A 19-year-old bled to death in 2014 after getting his arm stuck in a charity clothes bin in Bradford, West Yorkshire. Brendan McBride was found suspended in the metal hatch of a clothes bank belonging to Save the Mother's trust. He had been standing on a plastic container to reach into the bin when he slipped, trapping his arm and leaving him suspended. By the time a passer-by found him the next morning, the body had gone limp.

The good news for nine-year-old James Cartwright was that he successfully beat leukaemia twice. The bad news for Jamie was that building work at Birmingham Children's Hospital caused him to suffer a fatal fungal lung infection from the dust in 2013.

A factory worker died from severe burns in 2010 when he became trapped in an industrial oven in Runcorn, Cheshire. Alan Catterall, 54, used a crowbar to try to escape from the oven he was cleaning at Pyranha Mouldings Ltd, after another worker, who was due to marry Alan's daughter, turned the oven on, not realizing that anyone was inside. Mr Catterall's calls for help went unheard on the noisy

factory floor, and he was cooked inside. Whether the marriage went ahead went unreported.

A car wash worker died in agony after committing suicide by drinking hydrochloric acid at a BP garage in Brighton, East Sussex, in 2014. Zorancho Dimov, 47, was depressed over debt and losing his family home in North Macedonia, and thus drunk the undiluted acid. Screaming in agony, his teeth appeared to be dissolving by the time paramedics arrived. He died six days later in hospital.

An assault from 1988 killed a grandmother in 2014 after a simple lick from her dog. Sheena Kavanagh, 53, died after a lick on the hand by one of her pet dogs caused her to die from a rare infection. The grandmother, from Hilderstone, Staffordshire, went into septic shock after the dog's saliva entered her bloodstream through a small cut in her hand. This proved fatal because her spleen, which prevents infection, had been removed in surgery in 1988 after she was assaulted by her boyfriend. After being diagnosed with bacterial meningitis and being given antibiotics, Sheena's condition declined and she died the following night from the infection.

Prankster and rugby player Gareth Mason, 22, was killed when 2004 when a mooning prank went horribly wrong in Aberystwyth. Mason had been on a pub-crawl with friends and, after returning to his flat, he stepped up laughing to the open window, dropped his trousers and cried "Who wants some of this?" Not surprisingly, the drunkard got tangled up in his trousers and pants which were wrapped around his ankles and he fell through, missing the window frame, before getting impaled on railings twelve feet down. He died from catastrophic blood loss caused by injuries to his neck and chest.

Some people are completely unable to realize that films are nothing more than fiction. Certainly 12-year-old Scott Buckle, of Swansea, was one of those unable to tell the different between fact and fiction. After watching *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* in 2005, Buckle decided to imitate a scene in which Captain Jack Sparrow, played by Johnny Depp, escapes a noose, only to end up accidentally hanging himself when the imitation went wrong. Scott Buckle, the attempted swashbuckler, flopped.

James Mearing, 51, was killed after poor bagpipe playing whilst practising in Edinburgh in 2005. James, who blamed the cold in his fingers and the medication he was on, so infuriated 38-year-old Keith Drysdale that the latter punched, kicked and hurled a chair at James, killing him from a brain haemorrhage.

11-year-old Conor Johnson was accidentally stabbed to death in 2005 by his police officer father, Ian, whilst he was demonstrating a Roman execution. Ian, of Littlehampton, West Sussex, had used a four-inch kitchen knife to re-enact pictures in a book about Roman times. Moments later, Conor jokingly hit his father from behind, but Ian temporarily forgot he was holding a knife as he playfully grabbed his son, stabbing him. Re-enactment, turned into real life.

Elderly patient Alan Moir, 78, died after he took a tablet from his bedside cabinet at Woodend Hospital in Aberdeen, Scotland, believing it was a painkiller. It was, in fact, a disinfectant tablet meant for the retired builder's foot bath. Alan started choking but temporarily recovered, before dying in 2006 shortly after complaining of a recurring sore throat. The official cause of death was pneumonia.

Singer John Macisaac, 24, died after impaling his thigh on a spiked iron railing while taking a short cut to a party in Southampton in 2007. John managed to pull himself free and tried to limp to nearby flats to get help, but he bled to death in the street.

A mother-of-two died in 2007 after stubbing her toe on an uneven pavement in Leith, City of Edinburgh. Kirsty Keenan, 35, cut her toe when she tripped in the street near her home. She called doctors to her house after experiencing searing pains in her leg, but no-one connected the pain to her stubbed toe and the doctor recommended painkillers. The next day she was found unconscious by her partner and was rushed to hospital, where she was diagnosed with septicaemia. An emergency amputation of both her legs was performed, but Kirsty died of a previously unknown heart condition.

John Parsons, a retired engineer from Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, always longed for a motorcycle, but his wife always stopped his dreams in its tracks. When the wife died from cancer in 2006, John, 71, almost immediately bought a 125cc Honda. However, the excitement of finally realizing his dreams caused John to suffer chest pains, which in turn led to him wobbling and falling under the wheels of a Range Rover, killing him. Maybe the wife had a point.

Barry Collins, 24, was crushed to death when he ran back to his old van to get something, just as it was being picked up by a scrapyard crane. Barry and his brother had taken the white VW van to the scrapyard in Sholing, Southampton, in 2007 for it to be scrapped, but after the wheels had been taken off, Barry said to his sibling he had forgotten some possessions and rushed back to retrieve them. His brother heard the crane start up, but his warning signals were interpreted as a request to move the van, and Barry was still inside when the hydraulic pincers

began crushing it. He died from crush injuries and the firm, James Huntley and Sons, were fined £85,000.

A 60-year-old woman from Queensland was found dead at the family's sheep and cattle ranch, having been killed by her pet camel after the animal may have attempted to have sex with her. Pam Weaver had been given the camel earlier that year due to her love for exotic pets, but the camel was recalcitrant, having nearly suffocated the woman's goat on several occasions. One day in 2007, Pam became the 336lb-camel's object of desire and knocked her to the ground, lay on top of her and displayed possible mating behaviour, suffocating her.

A blindfolded jeweller was led into a specially made dungeon by a 68-year-old woman and choked to death at her home when a sex game went wrong. Lionel Webster had a padlocked metal collar around his neck when he died at the garage of Ann and Colin Richardson's home in Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, in 2009. Unknown to his wife, 61-year-old Webster regularly made visits to the Richardsons' house since responding to an advert in a fetish magazine, and wore a padlocked metal collar with six-inch spikes, a blindfold, and a balaclava before asking Ann to punish and humiliate him. However, on that fateful day, the collar caused Webster to die from neck compression.

A football player from Zimbabwe drowned in a crocodile-infested river during a 2008 ritual to cleanse his team of bad spirits before a match. Sixteen players of second-tier side Midland Portland Cement were told to swim in the Zambezi River in the resort town of Victoria Falls ahead of the match. After the swim, the other players noticed that one of their own was missing, and search parties were unable to locate the player, who most likely drowned in the strong current.

Keri Shyrock, 23, was participating in a Christmas pageant in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 2008 when the overhead rope that suspended her 25ft in the air snapped, plummeting her headfirst onto a concrete church floor. Keri, who was playing one of the Three Wise Men, were approaching a star when she fell into the aisle in an audience portion of the theatre.

The luckless Emma O'Kane, 27, was killed by flying glass from a bottle thrown at a crowded Manchester pub in 2008. Emma was at the bar on Boxing Day when Neil McNulty, 19, who was refused entry by doormen, threw the bottle, which hit a pillar and smashed. One of the shards hit Emma in the neck, severing her jugular vein.

A 42-year-old woman from the north Queensland town of Townsville was walking to work in 2010 when she was decapitated by flying metal thrown up by a grass cutter. The woman was struck by a 60cm piece of steel pipe and died instantaneously. Police said a tractor, driven by a 48-year-old man, pulling a grass cutter ran over a steel pipe that had been lying in the long grass, which was then sent flying through the air at great speed.

Children's nanny Nichola Paginton, 30, died as she used a sex toy while watching pornography on her laptop in Cirencester, Gloucestershire, in 2009. Nichola most likely died from a sudden heart arrhythmia, probably brought on by her state of arousal.

Amanda Taylor, 34, was killed by a newly inserted tongue piercing in 2010. Taylor, of Cardiff, collapsed within 48 hours of having the 2cm steel bar put through her tongue. A day after the insertion, her tongue was swollen and she had a sore throat, and she later died from septicaemia and acute tonsillitis. Tests failed to link bacteria at the parlour with the infection.

Elderly gardener Arthur Sexton, 80, drowned after falling from a stepladder and falling headfirst in a water butt. He was found with his legs poking out of the 4ft-deep container by a neighbour near Holbeach, Lincolnshire, having wedged in so tight he would not have been able to pull himself free. After the 2011 incident, police later found a pair of flimsy step-ladders, which had collapsed near the water butt behind the shed at the £200,000 three-bedroom detached house backing onto fields.

A Romanian woman died in 2002 after suffering a severe allergic reaction to her husband's sperm. Cristina Dumitru, 25, from Iasi county, knew about her allergy to proteins in Grigore Dumitru's semen, and died after a sex session where they failed to utilize condoms. A doctor told the *Libertatea* newspaper: "We did all that we could to save the patient's life but with no success. These allergies to sperm are extremely rare but very serious. I have never seen anything like this before."

George Streat, 60, an employee at a slaughterhouse in Stockton, California, was apparently killed in 1993 by simply working too close to the hide-stripping machine. Streat was decapitated by the cutting action of the powerful machine's chains.

Retired hardware salesman William Kay, 73, ran himself over with his car, ten times. Kay had stopped his car at a newspaper box in his retirement village in Sunrise, Florida, in 1987. He left the car running and failed to shift the

transmission firmly into "park". After he got out, the car slipped into reverse and ran him over. Because the wheels were turned tightly left, the car continued reversing in a tight circle, running over Kay nine more times. One witness was injured trying to pull the keys from the ignition, without success. The car eventually came to a stop against a tree.

Hector Perez of the Bronx was killed in 1996 when the 44-year-old tried to retrieve his eyeglasses after they had fallen onto the trucks, only to be struck by the 5:15 subway train.

Darryl Jackson, 37, of Washington DC, was strangled in 1997 when his coat and T-shirt became caught between an escalator's moving steps and the comb-like piece of metal at the bottom of the escalator. Police and transit officials at the subway station speculated that Jackson may have fallen or was sitting on the elevator steps as they descended, and then failed to get up before his clothing caught at the bottom of the escalator, which had no mechanical problems.

James McIntosh, 20, made good on a dare in 1993 to touch a train passing through Mishawaka, Indiana. However, McIntosh was so focused on touching the eastbound train that he did not notice the westbound train approaching on the very same tracks on which he was standing.

A 65-year-old died when his car door slammed on his head in 1997. Ronald Weed, of Bay Point, California, was pushing his stalled car when the car started to roll faster than Weed could run. Weed hung on to the driver door and the floor of the car as he was dragged off the road. The open door hit a tree and smashed into Weed's head, causing fatal injuries.

Terrified of hospitals, Arthur Spears, a 63-year-old accountant from Winchester, London, decided to perform DIY surgery on himself. Spears inserted an 18in piece of wire into his bladder to relieve the pain he had been experiencing while urinating in 1994. This caused a fatal bladder infection when a simple operation would've solved the problem.

Peter Guttuso, 20, a chef from Buffalo, New York, killed himself in 1995 with a coat-hanger. He was trying to free his car's jammed antenna, when the wire hanger he was using slipped, stabbing him in the face, just below the eye. The stab wound caused massive internal bleeding in his brain, shutting down vital bodily functions, and after suffering blurred vision, he was declared brain dead the following day.

James Christiana, 47, was strangled by his garage door in 1984. Christiana was trying to repair the door by himself in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, when his T-shirt got caught in the main spring, causing him to lose balance and fall from his ladder. Christiana's mother responded to his screams by handing him a pair of scissors, but he was unable to free himself and was dead by the time neighbours could get him down.

Ironworker Michael Paul, 42, of Westminster, California, routinely cracked his neck whenever he felt a kink. He did the same thing after church one Sunday in 1996, but soon felt ill and was comatose by the time his brother drove him to a hospital. Paul died after twelve days in coma, having severed one of the main arteries to his brain by cracking his neck, destroying a section of his cerebellum and brain stem.

An 80-year-old blind organist and piano tuner was strangled to death by his sweater in 1992. The man was working alone at his home in Bourges, France, when a thread from his sweater got tangled in the power drill he was using.

Officer Todd Johnson, of the Rock Island Police Department in Illinois, was accidentally shot and killed during a 1993 demonstration of a disarming technique at the Henry County Sheriff's Department. Officer Johnson had reloaded his weapon, thinking the training had ended, and another officer took the pistol from him, pointed it and pulled the trigger. Three days later, Police Captain Richard Shurtz was showing fellow officers how the tragedy had happened when he accidentally shot himself in the stomach. He had removed the magazine from the automatic but forgot that there was a chambered round. He tried to drive himself to hospital but was involved in a car crash *en route* and died.

52-year-old Jackie Michelle Cottrill was found dead at her home in Blackburn, Lancashire, in 2021 after her clothing caught in her oven. Miss Cottrill had suffered a stroke six years earlier but had no known resultant balance issues, and no signs of disease or natural death was found in an autopsy. She suspended herself after her pyjama top became entangled in the oven door when she opened it to make her nephew a bacon sandwich, and her goose was cooked. Coroner James Aderley was completely baffled: "I can't explain how she ended up in this position – it's a very unusual case. In my twenty years of doing this I have never come across this happening."

49-year-old hunter Christos Constantinou was sneaking through undergrowth in 2009 while wearing a goat skin disguise as he stalked wild boar when two hunters

mistook him for a goat and opened fire. Christos, of Nemea in the Peloponnese, died before reaching hospital.

A melon triggered a vehicular accident that killed one person and injured thirty others in Cambodia in 2005. The mishap occurred when the melon rolled under the brake pedal of a fruit truck and the vehicle overturned as the driver tried to unjam it. One of the multitude of workers riding on the back of the lorry was killed in the chaos.

A Florida minister giving a sermon collapsed and died in mid-sentence as he told parishioners "And when I go to heaven…" The Rev. Jack Arnold, 69, was nearing the end of a 2005 sermon at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Oviedo when he grabbed the podium and fell.

Marc Higgins, 21, of Bristol, Connecticut, was so enraged when friends at a house party in 2011 made jokes of his constant flatulence that the left the house, returning 45 minutes later with several knifes to stab several of the guests, one of whom, 21-year-old Matthew Walton, succumbed to his wounds.

Robert Wood, 23, of Sonoma County, California, drunkenly climbed a tree in a park in 2008 to retrieve a Frisbee. Climbing trees whilst in a state of drunken bravado rarely ends well and in Wood's case, it ended him when he toppled out of the tree.

Wayland Deputee Jr, 23, broke into a home in Billings, Montana, whose owner was on vacation, hauled away two bags of household items, then returned to set fires in the kitchen and bedroom to cover his tracks. Before he could escape the burning building, he was overcome by smoke inhalation.

A 28-year-old office worker in the Chinese city of Guangzhou died in 2010 after the gas canister in his swivel chair exploded. The explosion sent shrapnel into his rectum, resulting in death from blood loss. A 14-year-old boy in Jiaozhou had died the previous year in the same fashion.

A drunken 21-year-old making his way from bar to bar in the Belarusian town of Uvarovichi in 2009 decided to swing on the outstretched arm of a 6m high plaster statue of Vladimir Lenin. The statue broke into pieces, and he was crushed under the rubble.

Such was the love of 47-year-old South African plumber Rob Emslie for his dog that, after she died, he wore the bitch's lead around his neck as a mark of respect.

One night in 2012, Emslie, of the Eastern Cape province, got into his car and shut the door without realizing the end of the lead was trailing outside. As he reversed away, the lead became ensnared in the car's axle, snapping his neck instantly.

An elderly dementia sufferer died in 2015 after using poisonous stain remover to make coffee. John Guttridge, 83, and his wife Ann both fell ill after mistaking the granules of Vanish Oxi-Action Gold for instant coffee. Ann recovered from the effects, but John died of chemical gastritis.

In 2010, 59-year-old Ronald Smith crashed his car in Hartlepool, County Durham, causing his airbag to deploy. However, a piece of glass pierced the bag, releasing a cloud of noxious fumes and powder. Although unhurt in the smash, Ronald began suffering chest and breathing problems almost immediately after coming into contacts with the airbag's fumes, and after being admitted to hospital, he died two months later from bronchial pneumonia and pulmonary fibrosis. Smith wasn't Britain's first airbag fatality, a dubious honour which appears to belong to Jennifer Reichardt. The 47-year-old was killed by her airbag in 1999 when her Rover 400 crashed head-on with another driver in Merseyside in 1999. The other driver sustained only a cut lip, but Jennifer suffered massive skull injuries after being flung back by the bag, as she was much closer to the airbag than a normal woman of her 5ft 6in stature.

When police officers discovered the dead body of 66-year-old Antoine Denis in his house in Chatham, Kent, in 2010, they found nothing suspicious to suggest a crime had taken place. It was only when the undertakers arrived to remove the body that they found a 12cm knife stuck up to its hilt in Antoine's back. Still, the police officers weren't nearly as incompetent as coroners in Essex County, New Jersey, who were revealed in 1982 to have not performed autopsies on the bodies of those who had died suspicious deaths. 28-year-old Thomas Acevedo had been listed as having died from "pneumonitis" or a bad cold after a "clinical observation", but an exhumation of his body found four bullet holes in his head. "It is irrational and inexcusable neglect to confuse pneumonia with four slugs in the head," said the county's medical examiner.

Jacob Marx, 27, died from cardiac arrest when a 9m-long betting shop sign fell on him in 2013. The sign belonged to the William Hill shop in London's Camden area. Clearly the odds weren't in his favour.

A 16-year-old from the Indian city of Satara, Maharashtra, India, died in 2008 whilst trying to impress his friends by swallowing and then regurgitating a lemon.

He had successfully performed the trick twice earlier in the day, but on the third attempt, the lemon became stuck and he choked to death.

A 23-year-old Chinese scooter driver from Yuhuan, Zhejiang province, died in 2012 when a lorry swerved to avoid him but overturned, spilling ten tonnes of boiling hot tar on top of him. According to lorry driver Yang Fu, the scooter drive had suddenly pulled in front of him, forcing him to brake heavily, whilst an eyewitness reported: "The bitumen poured out all over the man on the bike. You could smell it burning. There were some terrible screams and then silence."

In 2005, the skeleton of 47-year-old schizophrenic artist Richard Sumner was discovered in a remote part of the Clocaenog Forest in Wales. He had been missing for three years. An inquest heard that Sumner had tried to take his own life and had handcuffed himself to the tree and then thrown the key out of reach in an attempt to ensure he could not change his mind and try to get help. This technique worked too well, as the position of the handcuffs and marks on the tree suggested Sumner changed his mind, but could not reach the key.

In 1981, Maltese farmer Paul Gauci, 41, found what he thought was a large and heavy tin can in a field and decided to weld it to a pipe to make a mallet. However, the cylindrical tin was actually a German butterfly bomb left over from World War II, which went off as soon as he took his blowtorch to it, killing him and destroying much of his farmhouse.

An official at a 2012 athletics event in Dusseldorf died after being speared in the throat by a javelin thrown by a 15-year-old. 74-year-old Dieter Strack had gone to measure a throw but was hit by a javelin before it hit the ground. He died of his injuries in hospital.

Diane Durre, 49, was crushed to death in 2009 when a gust of wind brought down a 23m Taco Bell sign onto the top of her truck, crushing her to death in North Platte, Nebraska. She and her husband had agreed to meet another couple directly underneath the sign at 12:30am on the fateful day. Her husband escaped with a broken finger.

In 2020, a man in India committed suicide as an offering to God to thank him for getting a job. 32-year-old Naveen, from Tamil Nadu, had prayed that if he were to get a job, then he would give up his life and "be with God". Naveen then got a job in the Mumbai branch of Bank of India. Just over two weeks later, he followed through his promise to God by laying down on railway tracks, allowing a train to run over him.

35-year-old Andrew Evans, of East Grinstead, West Sussex, was discovered by a friend standing up in his kitchen with his right hand in a cupboard in 2012. The friend only realized some time later that Andrew was deceased. It is believed Mr Evans had banged his head somewhere in the house, causing him to bleed heavily, and because of his intoxicated state had not realised how serious the injury was. He then blacked out in the kitchen, while apparently reaching into the cupboard, and slumped against a kitchen surface, which pushed his lungs upwards, eventually suffocating him.

A computer engineer with an interest in sex bondage died after tying himself naked to a tree with cord wrapped around his penis in 2009. Kevin Kirkland, 44, used a makeshift pair of rope handcuffs to attach himself to the trunk but got trapped when a knot jammed around his wrists. Walkers discovered his body slumped against the tree the following morning near his home in Newport, Shropshire. He was wearing just his socks and boots and had a small piece of cord wrapped around his penis. He died from hypothermia and blood loss from cuts on his wrists which were caused by his desperate attempts to escape.

Jason Jeffreys, 37, a car salesman, was told by his fiancé to pick his underpants off the floor in his house in Cadoxton, Neath, in 2010. Jeffreys' response was to hang himself, which is perhaps a slight overreaction. "I never saw this coming," noted his fiancé, 35-year-old Susan Morris.

A man from Italy's Aosta region was killed in 2016 when he fell to his death while shaking crumbs off a tablecloth. The 47-year-old fell eight metres to his death from the balcony of his second-floor apartment. After having breakfast with his wife and two children, the man went to shake the crumbs off the tablecloth over the balcony. But the tablecloth slipped from his hands, and he fell over the balcony as he tried to retrieve it.

British motorsport mogul Robin Mortimer, 58, was found dead in 2010 in the Belgium sex dungeon of the self-proclaimed "most perverted dominatrix in Europe". Found wearing a leather gimp mask, chain and ball-gag, Mortimer had paid Mistress Lucrezia and Mistress Juno £600 to abuse him. He died from choking on nitrous oxide, which he was using as an anaesthetic to be able to withstand the pain of Lucrezia's torments, which in the past had included sewing zips onto her willing male victims.

A futsal player died in 2010 after a piece of the court's wooden floor came off and struck him in the abdomen. 23-year-old Robson Rocha Costa died of

haemorrhagic shock a day after the accident in a friendly match in southern Brazil. When Costa was attempting to tackle a player, a small piece of the court apparently came off as he was sliding, initially hitting his thigh and then making it to his intestines.

Sheila Decoster, of Toledo, Ohio, made a simple trip to the recycling bin in her garden in 2011 when she realized she had accidentally put something into the 65-gallon bin. In an attempt to retrieve it, Sheila fell into the trash bin, and was later discovered upside down by her husband, her legs sticking out. By then the 62-year-old had died of positional asphyxia.

Lieutenant George M. Prior, 30, played a round of golf at a country club in Arlington, Virginia, in 1982 and began to feel ill before he got to the 18th hole. Four days later he was dead after having a severe allergic reaction to Daconcil, a fungicide used on the golf course. Medical authorities determined that Prior's habit of carrying a tee in the mouth whilst playing had introduced the Daconcil into his system.

A 55-year-old truck driver, identified as Reiner H., died in a brothel in the central German city of Halle in 2010 when he discovered that the prostitute he was about to have sex with was a transsexual. His death was reported to be due to a combination of "excessive use of Viagra [and] extreme surprise". A shocked friend from Reiner's home town, in Saxony-Anhalt state, told *Bild*: "We all thought he had gone to Halle to buy his partner a birthday present".

A Russian man died in 2009 after completing a 12-hour orgy with female pals, who had bet him over £3,000 that he couldn't keep going for half a day. Minutes after completing the bet, 28-year-old Moscow mechanic Sergey Tuganov died of a heart attack, caused by the huge quantity of Viagra he had guzzled to prepare him for the task.

A 74-year-old Taiwanese man died in 2012 after he accidentally swallowed his dentures during sex with a prostitute. The man, identified as Chen, had been living with a close female friend in New Taipei City after separating from his wife many years ago. The 62-year-old prostitute said that she had sex with Chen for 30 minutes. According to her, Chen had got up from the bed, paid her and was about to put on his clothes when he collapsed. After being pronounced dead in hospital, doctors found his dentures stuck in his throat.

A trainee doctor, Zheng Gang, died of a heart attack in 2012 after over-exerting himself whilst producing a sample at a sperm bank. The 23-year-old was

pronounced dead at the scene of China's Wuhan University, where he had spent two hours inside a booth, having already visited four times that week.

A woman died in 2010 after cramming an entire circuit board from a toaster down her throat. Julie Reading, 37, gobbled the wiring and battery parts after she racked up thousands of pounds in debt. She was discovered at her home in Kidderminster, Worcestershire, by paramedics, but died in hospital several hours later.

The body of 22-year-old David Cooper was recovered from a 500,000-gallon tank of liquefied manure in 1985. Cooper was last seen on the edge of 25ft steel structure as he and his brother prepared to work on the tank on the family farm in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. Rescue workers drained approximately 450,000 gallons of the liquid before recovering the body.

A man building a swing set in 32C heat apparently was electrocuted when his sweat dripped into an electric drill in 1990. Burn marks on the chest of Richard Muller, 54, led authorities to speculate that he was pushing against the drill with his chest when perspiration seeped into the drill, and made a contact, said the coroner of Charles Parish, Louisiana.

A bull charged through the front door of a house and fatally gored an 82-year-old woman as she played cards with friends in 1994. Timotea Martinez and her friends were sitting in the kitchen of her house in Viver, near Valencia, Spain, when the bull broke in and knocked her against the wall, repeatedly goring her. The bull had escaped from a temporary bullring set up in the village square to stage bullfights as part of Viver's annual festival.

A performing bear entertaining pensioners in a retirement home in Hanover, Germany, in 2000 accidentally sat on a 90-year-old and killed her. Nora, who weighed 485lb, was being led into a hall when she stumbled on Gertrud W.'s wheelchair, lost her footing and fell on the woman, who later died in hospital of her injuries. According to the home director, Klaus Janetschek, "The bear was only supposed to sit on a bench and eat fruit while her handler talked about the history of bears."

In 2009, 65-year-old Steven Sewell, of Hipperholme, West Yorkshire, was bitten in the ankle by his half-blind pet dog during a game of fetch the stick while on holiday in the Scottish Highlands. He did not treat the tiny wound with antiseptic, and six days later was rushed to hospital when he began to lose feeling in his

fingers. Despite emergency treatment, he died the next day from inflammation of the brain caused by blood poisoning.

Barrie Hepburn, 65, lost the use of his legs after he was shot three times by a neighbour at his holiday home in France during an argument about a dog. Hepburn was so depressed about having to use a wheelchair and the difficulty he had in getting in and out of his luxury Jaguar car that, in 2011, he decided to self-amputate his "useless legs". Using a plastic bag as a tourniquet and a hacksaw, Hepburn, of St John's Wood, North London, had almost severed his right leg when he called the emergency services suffering from profuse bleeding. By the time the ambulance arrived, Hepburn was dead from blood loss.

Shy teenager Jemma Benjamin, 18, of Cardiff, Wales, died when she was kissed for the first time by her boyfriend in 2011. Sarah had the rare cardiac condition SADS – Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome – and died just moments after she embraced her boyfriend of three months.

Dawn Johnson, 38, died in 2010 after a portable toilet seat smashed through her car's windscreen. Dawn was driving behind a truck carrying a load of toilets in Okeechobee County, Florida, when two of the toilets fell off the truck. The potties hit the road and then split apart, sending shards of metal and plastic flying in the air. One of the pieces went through Johnson's windshield. The woman tried to avoid the rest of the debris and veered off the road, sending her car head-on into a tree.

Andrew Moore, 79, died in 2011 near his home in Bodmin, Cornwall, when his mobility scooter flipped over and landed on him, pinning him against a wall. He had reversed the scooter out of a lean-to by his home on to a footpath before going backwards down a steep grass slope. The weight of the 231lb machine, combined with his emphysema, led to him suffocating.

Blackburn-based comedian Martin Cassidy, 42, died after taking an accidental overdose of nitrous oxide, or laughing gas, while watching pornography in 2009. Mr Cassidy was found by his family who barged into his house after being worried over not seeing him for several days. Whether Cassidy kept nitrous oxide to force laughs out of his audience is far from clear.

A 54-year-old man was found dead of a heart attack in a pornography video booth at a sex shop in Cologne, Germany, in 2008.

18-year-old Carissa Glenn hung herself in 2008, probably whilst sleepwalking. Carissa, of St Ives, Cornwall, had become increasingly disturbed by rumours that a previous occupant of her flat had hanged herself – rumours that had no basis in fact. Carissa repeatedly talked about feeling a presence in her house, and an inquest ruled that there was a strong possibility that her dreams about the non-factual hanging may have influenced her pattern of sleepwalking.

A boy of 12 hanged himself by accident in 2008 with his karate belt. Alex Gale became entangled in a belt hanging from his bunk at his home in Sawtry, Cambridgeshire.

Cindy Corton, of Sleaford, Lincolnshire, got a 15cm toilet brush handle embedded in her buttock after a drunken fall in a friend's bathroom in 2005. Despite showing doctors her wound, she could not convince them there was anything inside it and it was only after two years of pain that she was able to prove the plastic was still inside her. Unfortunately, during the two-year interval, the handle had moved from her buttock to her pelvis and two operations failed to retrieve it. She underwent further surgery to try to get it cut out in 2009, but died on the table from huge blood loss at the age of 35.

Drunken musician Andy Banks drowned in 2013 after he became trapped in a drain while trying to retrieve his car keys. Banks, 49, died after leaving the Swans pub in Liversedge, West Yorkshire, and was walking to his house in nearby Dewsbury when he dropped the keys. He removed the drain cover and reached in, and was able to grab the keys, but he ended up getting trapped in the drain, whose water level was a foot below the street surface at the time. Fire crews spent 40 minutes attempting to free him before he was pronounced dead at the scene.

A driver who crashed after skidding on ice was crushed to death by a car as she stood at the roadside talking to her dad on the phone. Sarah Roe, 32, was telling father David, 61, about the damage to her vehicle when a second car lost control on the same patch of ice. David heard his daughter being crushed against a telegraph pole, killing her instantly, while the other driver suffered minor injuries on the country road near Syresham, Northamptonshire, in 2013.

A water addict, or "aquaholic", from Milton Keynes died in a Reading, Berkshire, care home in 2008 after staff allowed him to gorge on the liquid from a free-flowing hosepipe. Andrew Else, 51, who had autism, developed a water addiction after getting chronic stomach pains in his 20s. He often drank from bathroom taps and would go to great lengths to satisfy his craving. Although in a care home, staff failed to properly monitor him and Andrew was found drenched and lifeless next

to the hosepipe. After drinking several litres, he collapsed and died of water intoxication.

Oxford University graduate Yolanda Cox, 22, died after being injected with an experimental anti-aging drug by her sister, a GP. Yolanda suffered a massive allergic reaction after being given three times the normal dose as part of a test of the unlicensed drug invented by their mother. The pharmaceutical company set up by Yvonne Pambakian and her mother, Apri Matossian-Rogers, had spent £3 million developing the drug, known as B71, when in 2009 Cox agreed to be given injections on the basis it might treat her polycystic ovary syndrome, a condition she had been wrongly diagnosed with. She soon collapsed after receiving the drug in her house in Hampstead, North London, and suffered irreversible brain damage.

Blackburn Rovers football fan John Taylor, 30, drank so much at a 2010 football match at Stoke City's Britannia Stadium that when an 11kg metal bin was thrown at him, he headed it as if it were a football. Taylor died of head trauma.

A 56-year-old Australian man was killed by a mackerel in 2020 after the fish leapt from the sea into a fishing boat and struck him in the chest. He was fishing with family and friends in Darwin Harbour in the Northern Territory, when the mackerel smacked into his chest and caused major blunt force trauma.

A grandmother watching a game of rugby was accidentally struck on the head by the ball and died. Jennifer Selwood, 69, was rushed to hospital where she remained in a coma for two weeks before dying in 2020. Selwood had gone to see grandson Ellis Rossiter, 10, play at Taunton Rugby Club in Somerset. A player on an adjoining pitch kicked a rugby ball which hit her. She died from a traumatic brain injury exacerbated by secondary aplastic anaemia, which made it difficult to clot the bleed.

A man died after his leg caught in a boat propeller when friends pushed him into the water as a prank. Simon Houlder, 29, had been drinking with pals to celebrate his birthday on a Norfolk Broads cruise in 2020. One friend said he saw "fear etched into his face" as the boat backed into him. Simon, of Bubwith, East Yorkshire, died from loss of blood.

A teenage army cadet died from a stroke after turning his head too quickly while making dinner. Ben Littlewood, 17, of Dukenfield, Greater Manchester, had been making sandwiches for his sister and himself in 2019 when he apparently suffered an ischemic stroke, in which an artery to the brain tore due to neck injury. He was found lying on the kitchen floor and died in hospital eight days later. In 2000,

Lance Corporal Sean Quinn, 28, from Barrow, Cumbria, turned his head during a training exercise in Warminster, Wiltshire, to answer a call from a fellow soldier. In doing so, he severely damaged the arteries in his neck, cutting off the blood and oxygen supply to his brain and causing a double stroke. He died ten days later in hospital.

A 74-year-old woman who died after becoming stuck behind a kitchen unit is believed to have been searching for a mouse. Carole Williams [no relation to dog-bowl woman], of Clifton, Bristol, was placed on a missing persons list until a taxi driver raised the alarm in 2019 when she failed to appear for a scheduled journey and did not respond to phone calls. Police found her body in the small confined space, where she may have died of dehydration, although no definitive cause of death could be established. Friends of Carole reported her mentioning a mouse in the house.

Alan Seaman, 76, died in a bicycle crash while trying to escape from a swooping magpie in Wollongong, New South Wales. He suffered head injuries in 2019 when he veered off the path and crashed into a park fence south of Sydney and was thrown headfirst onto concrete. He later died in hospital.

A Daesh jihadist blew himself up in 2019 when the drone bomb he was operating ran low on battery and detonated over his head. The man had launched the device aiming to detonate the plastic explosives on it near troops in Mosul, northern Iraq. However, the drone was not fully charged and when it started to run out of power it boomeranged back to its starting point.

A Massachusetts construction worker died in 2019 after eating one-and-a-half bags of black liquorice every day for several weeks. The 54-year-old had switched to red, fruit-flavoured twists to the black liquorice version a few weeks before his death. He collapsed while eating lunch at a fast-food restaurant and died the next day in hospital. The massive amount of the liquorice consumed caused such low potassium levels that his heart stopped. Liquorice contains glycyrrhizinic acid, which interferes with the body's potassium levels by mimicking the hormone aldosterone, resulting in excessive excretion of the nutrient in cases of overconsumption.

A German politician died in 2020 after being struck by lightning as he was relieving himself at a garden party. A storm was underway during the barbecue when local councillor Nico Kunz, 44, discreetly slipped away for a wee. He was reportedly standing under a high-voltage power line when lightning struck. Onlookers at the garden party, held in the village of Hoehnstedt in the north-eastern German state

of Saxony-Anhalt, failed to resuscitate Kunz, a member of the Christian Democratic Union Party.

Jason Francis, 23, who lived near Rochdale, Greater Manchester, died in 2009 after slipping on a bar of soap, which caused him to fall onto the plastic spike of a solar-powered garden lamp. He died almost instantly from a penetrating spinal injury caused by the spike entering his neck.

A disabled man was killed by his false teeth, three years after swallowing them. Brian Holland, 44, of Stockport, Greater Manchester, who had a muscle-wasting disease, swallowed his upper dentures in 2010. He died of internal bleeding in 2013 when the teeth went through his oesophagus and perforated his aorta, causing internal bleeding.

Caterina Alzetta, 20, died in 2014 after her long hair became tangled in the steering wheel of her car, causing it to swerve across the road into oncoming traffic. She died in hospital from her injuries after she and her brother Pietro, 21, were cut free from the wreckage of their Ford Fiesta on a road in northern Italy. Pietro, who was driving, said the accident happened after her sister wound down her window, causing her hair to fly about.

Jennifer Meaker, 66, died after leaving her contraceptive coil in for 29 years, as she was too scared of hospitals to have it removed. She had the device fitted in 1985 and died in 2014 from a perforated uterus after a fall at her home in Bideford, Devon.

A dentist died in 2018 after being engulfed in flames when he lit a cigarette near a flammable chemical in his surgery. Noel Cooney, 78, unwittingly spilt the substance while tinkering with dental moulds at his home-based practise in Darwen, Lancashire. His wife, 76, heard him shout and burst into the room when she saw him covered in flames.

Andrew Tomlinson, 44, of Westcliff, Essex, died in 2014 after burning his buttocks in the bath. His burns turned septic in hospital and he died days later. He had endured increasingly hot soaks in a bid to ease chronic back pain.

When police found Manny Edwards, 18, in a pool of blood with head injuries, they thought he had been attacked; but CCTV showed he had crashed into a metal bus stop while running to catch a bus in his home city of Birmingham in 2014. He died later in hospital.

Ronald Burns, 78, choked on ham he was sampling at a delicatessen counter in Sainsbury's, Basingstoke, Hampshire, in 2013, and died of oxygen starvation a few days later. David Atkins, 46, choked on a sausage roll walking down a street in Poole, Dorset, on New Year's Eve 2013, moments after buying it in a supermarket. He suffered cardiac arrest and brain damage and died six days later in hospital. Louise Amey, 47, also of Poole, turned blue after a pickled onion stuck in her throat while she was watching *Dancing on Ice* on TV. She suffered cardiac arrest and brain damage and died five days later in hospital.

Bruce Holland, 64, took part in a pie-eating contest at a tavern in Townsville, north Queensland, in 2013. After a few bites he stared to gasp, sat down with a glass of water, said "Jeez, this chilli pie is hot!" and passed out, dying ninety minutes later from a heart attack.

Fay Wesley, 68, and her husband Alan, 72, were eating steaks in front of the television at home in Upper Bucklebury, Berkshire, in 2013. Fay took out the English mustard jar, but she accidentally swallowed an inch-long shard of glass from the jar. She coughed it up, but it had already cut her carotid artery. The wound caused her airway to swell, blocking oxygen to the brain, and she died a week later. It is unknown how more than 30 fragments of glass got into the undamaged English mustard jar.

John Fozard, 66, bled to death after cutting himself on a broken wine glass when taking out the rubbish. The glass tore through the polythene bin bag and left a 2in wound on his thigh, severing the femoral artery just above the knee. He left pools of blood around his house and smeared up the walls as he attempted to stem the flow, before collapsing in his bedroom. A neighbour discovered his body after visiting his house on the Isle of Anglesey, north Wales, in 2013.

A medical alert necklace proved to be the means of the death of 86-year-old Roseann DiFrancisco. She was found dead in 2016 by a visiting nurse in her New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, property. She had apparently tripped and her lanyard caught on her walker, causing the woman's upper torso to be suspended above the floor. The pressure on her neck then cut off air and blood flow.

A Chinese teenager who survived the Asiana Airlines crash at San Francisco Airport in 2013 died after being run over twice by rescue vehicles. Ye Meng Yuan was on the runway when she was covered with firefighting foam before being mown down by a truck doing the spraying. The tyres displaced the foam and revealed her body, which was then covered with a blanket before being run over by another vehicle.

A driver died in a freak towing accident in 2017 while trying to drag free his friend's bogged car on a beach in Queensland. 26-year-old Chris Poulsen died at the scene after the tow rope snapped, smashing through his back window and hitting him on the head. He had been trying to tow a friend's car after it got stuck in the sand on a steep gradient near the entrance to Farnborough Beach at Bangalee, near Yeppoon.

Lim Ba, 68, a Malaysian Taoist medium, died after a "human steaming" ritual went wrong as he sat on top of a bubbling wok and was covered with a giant metal lid. He suffered a heart attack and burns during the elaborate ceremony in 2017 performed during the Nine Emperor Gods festival at a Chinese temple. Witnesses heard banging coming from the metal lid after about half an hour of the priest becoming enclosed on top of the wok while sitting on a wooden platform. His son, present with other devotees, saw the lid moving. He was found unconscious, halting the ceremony in Kedah province, and was pronounced dead at the scene.

A Pennsylvania schoolteacher on holiday in Mexico died in 2017 when she fell off a rooftop balcony after laughing too hard. Sharon Regoli Ciferno, 50, was with her daughter at a friend's house when she sat on a deck ledge that doubled as a bench. Abruptly, she started laughing very hard, and as she put her head back, she lost her balance and fell off the ledge, dying of multiple injuries.

Frances Warren, 26, an office worker from Thornbury, Gloucestershire, was so upset that her blonde hair looked ginger after a visit to the hairdresser in 2013 that she drove 80 miles to Sedgley, West Midlands, walked into woodland and hanged herself from a tree. She had texted her hairdresser around fifty times to fix the problem, before proclaiming that she wished she was dead, before ending it all.

Natasha Scott-Falber, 14, from Caerwent, Monmouthshire, died in 2013 of toxic shock syndrome after using tampons for the first time. This led to high fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, dizziness and a rash. The infection is caused when streptococcus bacteria, which normally live harmlessly in the skin, invade the bloodstream and release toxins.

Lawrence Loeffler, 86, shot his 83-year-old wife, Betty, dead in Oregon in 2013 after a series of grievances against his family, including a failure by his stepdaughter to wish him a happy birthday and his complaint that Betty put the lid on the ketchup bottle too tightly.

Joao Maria da Souza, 45, was fatally injured in 2013 when a one-tonne cow fell through the roof of his house in Caratinga, Minas Gerais, Brazil, and crushed him. Joao had been sleeping with his wife, who was not injured, when the cow stepped through the asbestos roof after it had been grazing on a hill. He died in hospital the following day from internal bleeding. Joao's mother, Maria, was unhappy with the circumstances of her son's demise: "I didn't bring my son up to be killed by a cow. There's no justice in the world."

In 2014, police in the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso were called to investigate the death of an employee who worked in a rural property as a caretaker. He was found dead in a pig sty on a farm 22km from the municipality of Tapurah. The body of the 52-year-old, identified only as JRN, was found by the owner of the farm, who decided to take another employee to the property, and when he arrived at the site he came across the unusual scene: the employee was lifeless and completely naked, with his underwear on one foot. Part of the man's body were torn off by pigs, among them his penis. Evidence collected at the spot pointed to bestiality, since the clothes of JRN was found in the residence, along with alcoholic beverages and an open condom package, where a condom was missing.

A fitness fanatic who had two heart attacks and three strokes after massive doses of steroids died when he ignored advice to stop training. Oli Cooney, 20, of Baildon, West Yorkshire, was warned by doctors he risked his life if he did not limit his weightlifting, but he said he was "invincible and limitless". In 2013, he collapsed and died after running for a taxi. The pint-sized bodybuilder began taking steroids and working out because he wanted to change his body image.

William Lintern of Sheldon, Birmingham, who had twice recovered from cancer, died on his 85th birthday from a chest infection in 2013 after doctors at Solihull Hospital misdiagnosed a pea in his lung as a cancerous tumour. Deeming the supposed tumour to be aggressive, they declined to attempt to treat it. By the time the truth was discovered, severe pneumonia had already set in.

Stuart Duncan, 54, a council IT worker from Darlington, County Durham, was walking home from the railway station with a friend when he broke his leg trying to jump over a puddle. He packed his injured limb in ice, and two days later went to hospital, where he was X-rayed and given a cast. However, he developed a blood clot which killed him in 2013, eighteen days after his fateful leap.

Fergus Glen, 36, from Wainuiomata in New Zealand, hacked his brother Craig, 33, to death in 2002 with an axe because he had not been thanked for cooking dinner. In 2013, fellow Kiwi Edwin Maheno, 39, shot dead his uncle and aunt – Ivan (44)

and Carmen Maheno (38) – with a .22 calibre rifle after an argument about him using a used teaspoon in the sugar. He was jailed for a minimum of 18 years in Whangarei, Northland.

Daniela Weiss and Daniel Oelter, both 38, spent five years travelling around the world, visiting some of the most dangerous areas in the Middle East and Asia, but two days after returning home in 2012, they were fatally struck by a train just yards from their flat in Granichen, in the canton of Aargau in Switzerland.

On Friday the 13th April 2012, a patient at Darent Valley Hospital in Dartford, Kent, was kicked and bitten to death by a stallion as she took a walk on doctor's orders. Teresa Turner, 53, from nearby Gravesend was repeatedly attacked by the horse, thought to belong to travellers, as she crossed a field. Walkers found her mauled body five hours later with the horse still standing over her. It had to be tranquilised so that police could recover the victim.

A Cambodian man who tried to chase a five-legged pig from his vegetable garden in 2010 was killed when the animal knocked him down with a blow to a kidney before feasting on his stomach until he was dead. The son of 63-year-old Sean Sok, of Prey Veng province, retaliated by inflicting a fatal electric shock on the swine. According to villagers, the 13-year-old pig was an evil animal which regularly threatened their village.

A master-blender at the Glenfiddich distillery in Dufftown, Banffshire, northern Scotland, drowned in a giant vat of whisky. Brian Ettles, 46, allegedly threw himself into the 16ft wooden tank filled with water and yeast in 2012 and was pronounced dead at the scene. He committed the deed just a day after his wife's birthday, which must have put a slight dampener on the celebrations. No wonder Glenfiddich whisky tastes so off.

A 17-year-old boy was killed at a dairy farm in northern Queensland in 2011 when the cow he was preparing to milk kicked him in the head.

A woman died after an allergic attack thought to have been triggered by a dentist's mouthwash. Sacha Rumaner, 30, from Brighton, was having her teeth cleaned in 2011 and was not even under anaesthetic when she went into anaphylactic shock. Dental staff said she complained of feeling hot and having an itchy leg moments before she lost consciousness. She was pronounced dead before she could be taken to a nearby hospital. It is possible the allergic reaction was triggered by chlorhexidine, a chemical antiseptic found in some brands of mouthwash.

A bad-tempered man who went to bed with a headache in 2006 saying he must not be disturbed was found dead four years later. The 50-year-old's brother and sister were too scared to knock on his bedroom door and thought he must be eating out at night. Workmen noticed the body as they measured up windows in the Hague, the Netherlands.

A man went on trial in Norway in 2010 for shooting dead his mother and cutting her body into bite-sized cubes with a chainsaw because she refused to read a book he liked. The 40-year-old recommended *Girl in the Cellar* by Austrian kidnap victim Natascha Kampusch, but his mother – fatally – didn't fancy it.

Sally Feeley, 42, bled to death in 2010 when she tripped over her handbag and on to a glass in a bar whilst on holiday in Malaga. Sally severed the axillary artery and attempts by friends to stem the blood flow failed to save the hairdresser's life. Sally, originally from Birmingham, had been an expat in Spain for six years.

A holidaymaker in Cyprus died in 2010 after accidentally drinking clear cleaning fluid in a water bottle. Gloria Smith, 60, of Walsall, West Midlands, screamed "it's poison" and was taken to hospital, where she died. It transpired that a cleaner used the bottle to avoid using a heavy container.

A bachelor died of a heart attack after getting stuck in a hole in his bedroom door. It is thought 38-year-old Stefano Tardio had a panic attack when he got locked in his room. He kicked out a six-inch panel to escape, but was found in 2011 wedged with his legs on one side and his torso on the other. Stefano, of Yate, Gloucestershire, was vulnerable to an attack as his heart was twice as heavy as normal.

A schoolboy chorister worried he would not be able to hit high notes may have accidentally strangled himself trying to improve his voice. Edward Morgan-Gooch, 12, was found on the floor by his mum in 2011 with a belt tied around his neck. His dad tried to revive him, but Edward died in hospital. It is believed the lad, from Wickhambrook, Suffolk, may have been trying to work on his breathing after he became worried about his voice breaking.

A pensioner died after tripping over a loose paving slab on the same morning officials declared it was safe. Charles Hurst, 87, stumbled on the high street, struck his face on the ground and died in hospital from a blood clot on his brain. That day in 2011, council and water company inspectors agreed slabs in the area did not need replacing immediately, although whether the check took place before or after Charles's fall could not be established. Doris Hurst, his wife of 56 years, from

Poole, Dorset, blasted the high street: "The high street is a disgrace. My husband was very careful there because there were so many potholes".

A farmer helping his mother-in-law secure a gate post with a digger accidentally killed her when the vehicle's 250kg bucket fell on her. Margaret Read, 64, was crushed in 2011 after Tommy Handley, 45, failed to lock the JCB arm's fixing bolts at her farm in Skipton, North Yorkshire.

A gran drowned after careering into an icy river on her mobility scooter. Rose Phillips, 69, was found lodged under a tree in 2.5ft-deep water after she veered off a path in the dark in 2011. If she had let go of the controls, the 4mph machine would have automatically stopped as she approached the River Brain in Witham, Essex.

A teenager choked to death scaling a 7ft fence when his sleeve became snagged on an iron spike. Carl Ford, 19, was found hanging by a passer-by in 2009 after his jacket strangled him. Carl, from Colchester, Essex, died later in hospital.

A 35-year-old choked to death on crisps as he travelled as a passenger with two colleagues in a delivery van near Marks Tey, Essex. 35-year-old Iain Ward sat "bolt upright" shortly after eating some crisps in 2007 and died from asphyxiation due to inhaled food.

A woman fell to her death in 2008 from a cliff while taking a holiday snap of a grasshopper. Kathryn Williamson-Stockwell, 54, slipped and fell 100ft after crouching to get a better shot. The mum-of-three was visiting a remote Bulgarian waterfall with her husband. The couple, of Amlwch, North Wales, had wanted to move to the Balkan state.

A boy died in 2009 following an asthma attack thought to have been started by the joy of opening his birthday gifts. 12-year-old Martin Glazier-Macrae, of Oldham, Greater Manchester, died in his dad's arms after the attack brought on heart failure. The excitement of getting a new Lego set was believed to have triggered the asthma attack.

A sailor was killed when he fell and smashed his head on a fish tank. Retired merchant seaman Clive Brolls was found in 2006 slumped beside the tank which he had to remind him of his days at sea. Police found Brolls, 58, at his home in Cardiff and saw two cracks in the tank, with all the water drained out. He died three days later from a severe blood clot to the brain.

A girl of eight died after choking on a drawing pin which had fallen into her glass of water. It is thought the pin dropped off a noticeboard in Gabriella Clemmitt's room and landed unnoticed in the drink. As she took a sip while watching a film on television in 2006, the pin lodged in her throat and blocked her airways. Her parents attempted to help Gabriella, of Middlesbrough, as she staggered downstairs gasping for breath, but she was pronounced dead after paramedics spent an hour trying to revive her.

After a night out with friends in Ibiza in 2013, 25-year-old Blackburn-based plumber Christopher Briggs entered his newly polished hotel room where he slipped on a shiny bathroom floor, killing him. He was found dead on his back with blood around his nose.

Excitement killed thrill-seeker John Gregory in 2009 as he jumped 30ft off a cliff into the sea. Gregory died of a heart attack caused by the adrenaline rush, as the 40-year-old of Davyhulme, Manchester, was unaware his arteries were blocked.

A farm worker was crushed to death in 2012 when he fell from a 100kg potato crate and it landed on top of him. Paulo Alemida de Silva, 47, had seen a similar incident played out at a health and safety course days earlier. He was in the crate being lifted on to a lorry at Kingston St Mary, Somerset.

Former dinner lady Elena Brennan, 79, plunged to her death in 2011 after leaning out of her bedroom window to smoke. Elena fell 20ft on to a concrete ramp from her second-storey flat in Streatham, south London, and sustained a massive head injury.

A man suffocated in 2008 after getting his head stuck down a drain in his conservatory. William Lea, 74, got trapped as he peered in or tripped and fell in when the manhole cover was off. It is not known how long the pensioner, from Cartmel, Cumbria, was there. It took four men to free him.

A man died after drinking vast amounts of cold water to relieve painful gums. Andrew Thornton, 44, overloaded his body after drinking ten litres in eight hours in 2007. He had also been drinking at a similar rate for the previous two days as it helped to numb his mouth. The warehouseman, from Bradford, West Yorkshire, thought he was being sensible by refusing to take painkillers for gum disease.

50-year-old businessman David Belk died in 2007 after he headed a football during a veterans' soccer match. Belk complained of a stiff neck and a headache soon after the Sunday game. By the Wednesday, the pain was so bad he was taken to

hospital. He died a week later, and an autopsy found the header had caused a tiny tear in his blood vessel. Belk, of Macclesfield, Cheshire, had a heart pacemaker and was taking the blood-thinning agent Warfarin, which can lead to the weakening of blood vessels in the head.

Kevin Greening, who co-hosted the BBC Radio 1 breakfast show from 1997 to 1998, died from a drugs overdose in 2007 after taking part in a homosexual bondage session. The sex session, which took place in Greening's Wandsworth, south London, property, involved Greening being suspended in a black leather sling from scaffolding in the bedroom while wearing a rubber suit, with cling film around his torso. Tests on Greening's blood found traces of cocaine, ecstasy and GHB.

BBC television presenter Kristian Digby, 32, host of *To Buy or Not To Buy*, accidentally suffocated himself in 2010 by tying a bin liner around his head during a solo sex game. Digby was discovered in his Stratford, London, flat by his worried partner. A sock was found inside the bin bag, along with a canister of ethyl chloride, taken to boost sexual pleasure.

Richard Davies was drinking with friends in 2010 when he sank a bottle of vodka in a mere four seconds. The 29-year-old, from Thornaby-on-Tees, North Yorkshire, fell into a stupor after the trick in 2010 and was taken to his stepfather's home to sleep off the effects. But he slipped into unconsciousness after vomiting and was found dead from acute alcohol poisoning in a pool of his blood the following afternoon. He'd also had lager, although how much could not be determined.

A fireman's wife died of cancer in 2007 after being exposed to asbestos as she washed his uniform. Mum-of-two Kathleen Thompson, 54, contracted mesothelioma after regularly coming into contact with the dust on husband Alan's clothes. Alan, 56, of Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, worked at a fire station where a large pipe where they hung kit was lagged with asbestos.

A tiny cut on the elbow was enough to snuff out 38-year-old bodybuilder Stuart Wheawall in 2016. Stuart grazed his skin and suffered the 5mm cut while working in a TK Maxx warehouse in Chesterton, Staffordshire. He fell ill four days later, having contracted septicaemia, and was rushed into emergency surgery, but suffered a cardiac arrest the next day.

Tom Taylor, 17, died in a freak blast at his family's magic shop in 2015 while using a low-end 3D printer. Tom was using hairspray to stick college work to the hot

plate of the £300 device, bought on eBay, when an electric spark ignited propane gases and set fire to flash papers used by magicians, which were stored in the shop in Lincoln. Tom inhaled the fumes and was dead when found.

A British banker died on a holiday in Thailand after tripping over his suitcase in his hotel room and falling through a glass door. Luke Goodere had been spending several days on the island of Ko Phi Phi as he travelled back to his new home in Australia from a visit to his family in the UK. The 33-year-old, a former data analyst with the Royal Bank of Scotland, was found dead in 2019 in the shattered remains of his balcony door. He had suffered a fatal abdominal injury from a shard of broken glass. It is believed the business graduate, who grew up in Skegness, awoke during the night and had fallen through the glass door to his balcony.

A worker on an old windmill died when the toggle of his fleece got caught in machinery. An old injury meant Peter Lett, 53, was not wearing workers' overalls as he could not raise his arms to get into them. The volunteer, a former RAF engineer, died from multiple injuries in 2018 when part of his clothing became entangled in an engine he was restoring at Heckington Windmill, in Lincolnshire.

A pensioner's slippers may have played a part in his death after he fell from a ladder while carrying out DIY. Michael Helias, 70, was renovating his second home in 2018 when his feet became tangled, which led to him plunging down a flight of stairs and through a banister. The University of Brighton technical adviser was found by his wife, having died from a fractured spine.

Print worker Alan Dinsdale, 56, was killed after slipping on oil and falling on to a guillotine used to slice paper. Alan, who was working alone, bled to death from neck injuries from the newly sharpened blade in 2014. His body was discovered in his workshop in Wickford, Essex, sometime later by a deliveryman.

A diabetic man died in 2013 after he passed out in a sauna and suffered extensive burns. Barinder Lal, 49, was found by leisure centre staff lying on the floor of the 76C room with burns to his arms, face, and chest. They were unable to resuscitate him. Lal could have been in the sauna at the leisure centre in Gravesend, Kent, for up to 45 minutes, around twice the recommended limit. It is possible he suffered heart failure due to his diabetes.

A dad of three was ploughed down in 2012 when he cycled into the path of a speeding train while listening to music on his headphones. Two walkers frantically tried to stop Phil Dawn, 34, riding over a level crossing but he was killed instantly when he was hit at the line near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

A man died alone after falling down and hitting his head while trying to put on his trousers. James Hughes, 65, suffered a fractured skull which led to fatal bleeding after toppling over in his bedroom in Coleridge Gardens, Lincoln, in 2011.

A teenage boy died from an unknown heart defect after trying to run fast enough to trigger a speed warning road sign. Andrew Underwood, 14, had been running along the road with friends in an attempt to activate the signs in 2007, but felt dizzy and collapsed. He came round and was taken to a friend's house, but collapsed again and died in hospital. It transpired that Andrew, of Baildon, West Yorkshire, had a heart defect which could have been triggered at any time.

Christmas reveller Patrick Horton suffocated when he got trapped upside down between a fence post and wall. He may have been sitting on the wall or trying to climb over his garden gate but fell backwards. Patrick, 32, was found in the early hours of Christmas Eve 2008 after a night out in Penistone, South Yorkshire.

A woman was killed when her 3ft-long hair caught fire as she cooked dinner on a gas ring in 2008. The flames then spread to Cherie-Lee Tulett's clothes and also the insulation on a fridge door, melting its hinges. Firefighters found Tulett, 40, on the floor with the door on top of her in Sholing, Southampton.

A drunkard banned from drinking more Stella Artois at his local downed six pints of water in protest, and promptly died. Heavy drinker Tony Holtam, 47, collapsed on the floor in a corner of the pub in Bridgend, South Wales, in 2009 after guzzling an extreme amount of water, which left him with dangerously low levels of sodium in his bloodstream. Holtam, who usually knocked back his favourite strong lager at a rate of five pints an hour, was barred from drinking any more by pub landlady Sian Davies, which led to him entering the bar to drink only water in a form of protest.

A Hampshire pensioner died in 2008 after lying trapped in her bath in agony for more than a week. Irene Vyse, 81, slipped and knocked herself unconscious while she was trying to get out of the bath. Irene, who lived alone, spent eight days lying helplessly in six inches of water before a neighbour phoned the police. She died in hospital a day after she was rescued from multiple organ failure, hypothermia and decomposition of both legs.

A taxman killed himself in 2008 after the smoking ban left him a virtual recluse. Lawrence Walker, 61, barely went out when cigarettes were barred from his local pub as part of a nationwide ban in 2007. Feeling insulted over having to stand

outside and smoke, Lawrence grew solitary and eventually leapt to his death off cliffs in Newquay, Cornwall.

A healing therapist who refused to see a doctor died after developing gangrene in his leg. Russell Jenkins injured his left foot treading on an electrical plug at his home in Portsmouth in 2007. The wound later became infected, but the 52-year-old shunned conventional treatment, saying his 'inner being' told him not to go to hospital. Instead, he tried treating it with honey, but the gangrene spread to his leg and he died of overwhelming infection.

Chris Nicholls, 23, of Croydon, south London, suffered a fatal heart attack in 2008 while watching a porn film. Chris was born with a heart abnormality and died just weeks after open-heart surgery following the heart attack. It is believed the excitement caused by watching the blue movie caused a fatal rush of adrenaline, which would have brought on ventricular fibrillation arrhythmia, or a serious erratic heartbeat.

A pensioner died after she was struck on the head by a hospital car park barrier. Anne Evans, 79, who had been to an eye clinic in Cheltenham General Hospital, was hit when the exit barrier descended as she walked towards a car being driven by her husband. After being struck she fell backwards and her head hit the kerb. She died two days later from bronchial pneumonia due to a blunt force trauma to the head.

Pensioner George Harris died after his electronic armchair hurled him to the ground when he fiddled with its controls. The retired farmer, 77, suffered a fractured skull in the fall in his home in Penryn, Cornwall, and died in hospital four days later, in 2008.

Maureen Jarvis, 68, died in 2007 after slipping on a grape in a Tesco supermarket and breaking her right leg in the fall. Jarvis appeared to be slowly recovering, but suffered a fatal pulmonary embolism nearly four months later at her home in Southampton, Hampshire.

Susan Howe, 57, of the Isle of Man, stopped her car on a gentle slope in 2008 to de-ice the rear window, but forgot to put on the handbrake, leading to the vehicle crushing her.

Elderly Liverpool FC fan James Carver, 77, suffered a fatal head injury as he celebrated a dramatic goal. James, of Rotherham, South Yorkshire, watched on TV as two Steven Gerrard goals saw his side come from behind to win against French

side Marseille in a UEFA Champions League fixture in 2008. The great grandad leapt from his armchair but fell, hitting his head. He went to hospital but suffered a second fall there, dying four days later. The pathologist blamed James's death on bleeding from the brain suffered in his first tumble, although he was improving before his second slip.

A gardener died when he fell on a kitchen knife he had been using to cut broad beans. Father-of-four Roy Haynes, 58, suffered a single stab wound to the heart but staggered to his front drive to get help before collapsing. His son was initially arrested on suspicion of his murder when the body was found in the family's home near Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, in 2008, but both coroner and officers concluded that the only plausible explanation was that Haynes had accidentally stabbed himself.

Marco Querino, 56, was hit and killed by a car driven by an 84-year-old woman on a busy road outside Rome as he tried to retrieve more than €1000 in €50 notes that had blown from his car window into the road in 2021. Police were unsure how much money was involved in total as several other motorists stopped to grab the fluttering cash, but only one turned in his haul to the police. They also don't know where Querino's money had come from (haven't they heard of an ATM?) and why it was loose in his car. They are assuming he had just received it and had placed it on his dashboard.

Failing to find any toilets after drinking heavily on a beach in Pernambuco, Brazil, Marcelo Rocha Santos, 53, waded waist-deep in the sea to relieve himself in 2021, but was grabbed and killed by a shark.

A farmer died in 2020 after stepping into the swinging arm of a JCB excavator being driven by his son. Gareth Griffiths, 62, had been laying drainage pipes at the farm in Henllys, south Wales, with his son Christopher when he was struck by the bucket of the excavator on the head, causing massive brain injuries and spinal damage.

Alarrah Lawrence, a 33-year-old mother, was killed in 2021 after slipping on a plastic bucket and falling head first into a charity bin while rummaging for clothes. Alarrah was peering through the charity bin in Rockingham, a suburb of Perth, Western Australia, when she slipped off the bucket, leaving her upper body stuck in the hinged opening and her feet dangling off the ground.

A dog walker died after his pet pulled him over on a stroll at a beauty spot. Callum Jones, 27, suffered a strained tendon and medics gave him a boot to wear for his

ankle, but he began to feel worse and was hospitalised with shortness of breath. Because of his immobility, Callum, of Flintshire, Wales, developed a blood clot, and he suffered cardiac arrest two weeks after the fall in 2021.

A farmer was killed by an Aga cooker as he moved it across his kitchen. Tony Rees, 78, was pushing the half-ton stove on a trolley in 2021 when it fell, crushing him. His wife had begged Tony to wait for his son to come and help at their farm near Ruthin, north Wales, but Tony, who had blood cancer, "didn't want his illness to have the better of him".

John Burns, 61, died in 2015 after being crushed by thirty tonnes of rice in a work accident. Burns died after the weight of the rice smothered him, causing blunt force injuries to his chest, after he was buried at Garston Docks, Liverpool, under the huge amount of grain when he was trapped at the rear end of his tipper truck when it deposited the cargo.

A retired gardening expert died from heatstroke after she collapsed in her greenhouse. Phyllis Turner, 88, may have suffered a fall and been exposed to the burning sun on a hot day in July 2021. She died from heatstroke after a long lie in the sun at her home in Ilminster, Somerset, having suffered 18% burns.

John Clabburn, a 52-year-old TV director, died when he cut off his hand with a new chainsaw while trimming the hedges at his home. John, who directed episodes of such Australian TV shows as *Home and Away* and *Underbelly*, was cleaning up the high conifer hedge in the backyard of his family's home in Sydney in 2021 when he slashed his hand with a cordless saw he had just bought that day. Clabburn fell off the ladder he was on, tumbling 10 feet to the ground, and ended up suffering fatal cardiac arrest from the blood loss from his slashed hand.

Farmer Paulo Celestino da Silva, 39, of Currais Novos, Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil, was killed in 2021 by a donkey that knocked him to the ground and tore out his throat with its teeth. Da Silva was found covered in bite marks and bleeding profusely from his neck, near a donkey with its legs and mouth covered in bloodstains.

42-year-old Tony Eyles, of Vancouver, Canada, was grabbing breakfast around 5.30am at a McDonald's branch in 2021 when he dropped his bank card and got out to retrieve it, only to be pinned against the building by his car. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Amy Adams, 41, boarded a San Francisco BART train with her assistance dog at the Powell Street station in 2021. Just as the doors were closing, though, she changed her mind and jumped off, but her dog, which was attached by its lead to her waist, did not, and remained on the train, leaving the lead trapped in the car door. The driver, who had already done the safety inspection before Adams jumped off, did not see her, and started the train, pulling Adams under it and dragging her along, killing her instantly. The dog was not harmed.

An 11-year-old girl accidentally strangled herself with the rope on a garden swing in 2021. Grace Hamnet was on a WhatsApp video call with school friends at the time, joking "I'll put my neck through this and hang myself". Her mother discovered her unconscious in Widnes, Cheshire, but she could not be revived and died in hospital five days later. Back in 1998, a boy of 12 who was hyperactive and suffered from ADHD was hanged as he played on a homemade swing. Adam Upshall was found by his mother dangling from the garden swing in Christchurch, Dorset, which they had made from a scaffold pole and two luggage straps.

A 10-year-old Brazilian girl was killed when her long, curly hair got stuck in the drainage system of her swimming pool. Laise Pegorini Franzen suffered cardiac arrest when she became trapped underwater for a long time at her home in the state of Santa Catarina. She was declared dead at hospital.

A mum who died during the school run when her car veered into the path of a lorry may have been distracted by watching *Love Island* on her mobile. Charlotte Buesden, 28, was killed after her Nissan Qashqai collided with the front of the HGV on a busy road in Sittingbourne, Kent, in 2021. Charlotte had dropped her son off at school before her car swayed into oncoming traffic at 7.30am. According to DC Bob Fursey, Buesden's phone was found on the dashboard, alongside a magnetic phone clip, with an error message displaying on the ITV Hub app. The phone had disconnected from an episode of *Love Island*, but there was no evidence of her sending messages or using data before the collision.

A 21-year-old pregnant woman died in a work accident in which part of her scalp was ripped off when her hair became tangled in a machine during a job interview in a Belarus factory in 2022. Umida Nazarova, who was seven weeks pregnant, was applying for a job in a factory in Borisov that produces welding wire and electrodes. While being shown around the facility, her hair got stuck in one of the industrial machines. Had her scalp not been torn off, she would have been strangled by her own hair. Despite being freed from the contraption, Umida died of her injuries in hospital.